

New York
s' yearly
of truth

THE TIMES
Tomorrow

Fallen peacock
Why I got it wrong: Sir Anthony Parsons explains how the first stirrings of revolution in Iran were misunderstood, and why he stands by the advice he gave to the Shah.



Smokescreen
Peter Kellner argues that the DHSS is not defending our health, but the interests of the tobacco and fatty food companies.

Keeping faith
How a woman is learning to cope with life after the break-up of her marriage to a vicar.

One last try
David Hands looks back on the long career of Scottish rugby international Alastair McHarg, who plays his last senior game today.

Spending in shops down 1.5%

Spending in the shops fell nearly 1 per cent last month, leaving retail sales for the first quarter some 1.5 per cent below their level last year.

Murder hunt as three die in fire

Police are treating as murder the deaths of three people, including a baby, in a fire in a Glasgow tenement.

Portugal's plea

Mrs Thatcher will be asked to give unequivocal support to Portugal's EEC membership during her three-day talks with Dr Mario Soares which open in Lisbon today.

Powell taken ill

Mr Enoch Powell, aged 71, of Enfield, Middlesex, was admitted to the King Edward VII Hospital for investigations after an attack of vertigo.

New paper

Mirror Group Newspapers is considering launching a left-leaning, quality tabloid newspaper, with trade union cash help, to be printed at a new plant in Manchester.

Gandhi 'plot'

An international plot to kill Mrs Gandhi is being investigated by the Indian Government. The news came as a bloody feud erupted between Sikh militants in Amritsar.

Tour party named

John Scott will captain the England rugby union tour party, named yesterday, which will leave for Durban on May 13. He will play in the unaccustomed position of lock.

Leader page, 15
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Leading articles: Matabeleland atrocities; Bettaney verdicts; Mrs Thatcher in Portugal.
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Spectrum: Iran on the brink; Fashion: what's new for the beach boys.
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'Puerile, dangerous' Bettaney is jailed for 23 years

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Michael Bettaney, the MI5 counter-espionage officer who offered to spy for the KGB, was yesterday sentenced to 23 years in prison after a jury at the Central Criminal Court found him guilty of 10 charges under the Official Secrets Acts.

Bettaney, aged 34, of Coulsdon, Surrey, became the first member of the Security Service ever to be convicted of spying at the end of a trial held in camera after the first 35 minutes of the prosecution's opening to the return of the jury after a five-hour deliberation yesterday.

After the verdict Bettaney was moved to special secure accommodation at Coldingley prison, Surrey, and the Home Office said he would be kept apart from other high security prisoners for the time being because of the "highly sensitive knowledge he possesses". His legal team announced that an appeal would be lodged.

The conviction will also raise questions in MI5. These are likely to include whether the Security Service should or could have noticed changes in Bettaney but still moved him to a highly sensitive area of MI5; should a conviction for being drunk and disorderly been considered against his move to counter-espionage; was material within MI5 properly controlled.

Yesterday Bettaney was convicted at the end of a case in which Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, described how the MI5 man became ideologically committed to the Soviet Union and decided he must spy for the KGB. He approached the home of Mr Arkady Gouk, a Russian diplomat suspected of being a senior KGB officer, at midnight and left a letter offering to be a spy.

To sweeten the offer, Bettaney on the first approach left background information on why three Russians were being expelled. On a second attempt he left the British assessment of the KGB effort in this country. When the Russians failed to respond, Bettaney planned to go to Vienna and try there.

Ford invest £65m at Halewood

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Ford is investing £65m to make its Halewood plant on Merseyside the European manufacturing centre for a new, light-weight, five-speed gearbox. It makes a total investment of more than £100m announced by the American company in the past three months for its British operations, and comes after the £234m that was earmarked last year.

The news was greeted with some surprise in the industry last night. Over the years Halewood's strike record, poor quality, and failure to meet output targets has brought much criticism from Ford chiefs.

But yesterday Mr Bill Hayden, the vice-president, manufacturing, of Ford Europe, and one of Halewood's harshest critics, made it clear that attitudes are changing on Merseyside.

He said: "This important new project shows that plants with good productivity records can justify additional investment. The new facility will make it one of the technically most advanced plants in Europe with a substantial long term contribution to exports from Britain."

By 1987, the 1800-strong labour force will be producing 300,000 new five-speed boxes annually.

Last month, Ford announced a £25m scheme at its Basildon plant in Essex, and £11m at Halewood. This is additional to the £74m being spent at Southampton, to give the Tranchesi van factory the largest concentration of robots in the British commercial vehicle industry, and £106m at Dagenham, in Essex.

Nicaragua rebel aims to set up 'provisional Government'

San Juan Del Norte, Nicaragua (AFP) - Señor Eden Pastora, leader of the rebel guerrillas who captured this swampy port on the Caribbean on Sunday, has told journalists here he wants to set up a "provisional government" of Nicaragua within the next 90 days and march on Managua.



Señor Pastora, known as "Commander Zero" when he was a hero of the Sandinista revolution which toppled Nicaragua's Somoza dictatorship in 1979, has turned against his former Marxist comrades and has been fighting a guerrilla war since last year against the Sandinista regime in Managua, where he served as Deputy Interior Minister until 1982.

He announced his resignation on Sunday night, claiming that the CIA had not kept the committee properly informed of its involvement in the mining of harbours in Nicaragua.

In Managua, the Sandinista Defence Minister, Señor Humberto Ortega, played down the guerrilla capture of the port. He said the attack had been made more for publicity than military purposes. San Juan Del Norte is now a silted-up ghost town where the San Juan river flows into the Caribbean, but it was a flourishing port in the nineteenth century. Its former deep-water bay is now accessible only to shallow-draft

striking, in which some of the forces fighting the Managua government have been financed through "covert action" funds from the US Central Intelligence Agency.

"We will ask for international recognition of our new government," he said, "because we are marching towards Managua."

The guerrilla leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) said that Señor Alfonso Robelo, a former member of the Sandinista junta, might be named president of the provisional government. But he condemned "US intervention" in Nicaragua civil



Bettaney who will be kept apart from other high-security prisoners at Coldingley prison, in Surrey.

Nationwide set to raise loan rate

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Nationwide, Britain's third biggest building society, is set to put up its mortgage rate for new customers from the present 10.25 per cent. Mr Cyril English, chief general manager, confirmed yesterday that an increase in the amount charged to borrowers was "a distinct possibility", but said it was unlikely to affect existing customers.

"I don't think it is fair to change the rate for people who have already committed themselves," he said.

Strike stalemate as miners wait for talks

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

A slight increase in the number of miners reporting for work was reported by the National Coal Board yesterday, but the hoped-for widespread defiance of the National Union of Mineworkers failed to materialize.

As the evening shift started, 122 pits were still strikebound and only 43 were producing normally. However, the number of men at work yesterday morning was up by 485 to 19,838 - the highest turnout since the "rolling strike" began more than five weeks ago.

China optimistic on Hongkong deal

From David Bonavia, Peking

Mr Wu Xueqian, the Chinese Foreign Minister, said last night that Britain and China "can certainly reach agreement at an early date" on the future of Hongkong, if both sides pursue the talks "in the same spirit as has prevailed since negotiations began in 1982".

Mr Wu was speaking at a banquet to welcome Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, who is visiting Peking in the course of a tour of the Far East.

Pym denies Falklands peace deal

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Francis Pym, the former foreign secretary, said there had been no sign of a diplomatic breakthrough on the Falklands on the day the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano, was sunk in 1982.

Last night's BBC Panorama reconstruction of the events surrounding negotiations on a Peruvian peace plan and the sinking of the cruiser hinged on Washington talks held between General Alexander Haig, then the United States Secretary of State, and Mr Pym on the morning of May 2, 1982.

Mr Pym says in the programme: "There was no text discussed between us on Sunday. We discussed ideas and headings."

But General Haig says that after having worked on the plan proposed by President Belandier Terry of Peru on the Saturday, May 1, the Sunday talks with Mr Pym were substantive. "We were down to words, single words and specifically in two paragraphs of the six points."

Mr Pym, who has consulted his papers, flatly contradicts that version of events. He says: "There was no actual piece of paper with a text being altered. It was nothing like that."

"There was nothing that was happening that day which would in any way have enabled me to suggest that something was happening of such importance that things might be looking different on the following day."

Mr Pym adds that if General Haig had been on the verge of a breakthrough he would have asked him to stay in Washington. Instead, Mr Pym left, on schedule, for an appointment at the United Nations in New York.

Meanwhile, at Chequers, the "war cabinet" decided to change the rules of engagement, under which HMS Conqueror torpedoed the Belgrano outside the exclusion zone at 8pm London time. It took the "war cabinet" 20 minutes to come to a decision.

School dinner ladies lose their case

By David Cross

The High Court yesterday dealt a severe blow to school dinner ladies who have been threatened with dismissal or a large pay cut by local education authorities.

In an important test case, Mr Justice Mann refused to overrule decisions taken by Hertfordshire and East Sussex County Councils to impose new contracts incorporating wage cuts of about 20 per cent.

The councils had been forced to make economies and had had to take into account the competing interests of the ratepayers on the one hand and

Fight on to victory, defiant spy tells 'comrades'

Michael Bettaney began his sentence last night leaving behind his "last political act" in the shape of a personal statement attacking government policy and areas of the intelligence world and calling on "comrades everywhere" to battle on for the "historically inevitable" victory (Our Crime Reporter writes).

He also left criticisms of the way his five-day trial had been held largely behind closed doors with restrictions placed on the defence team. Complaints may be made to the Bar Council and the Law Society.

Last night Mr Larry Grant, Bettaney's solicitor, said that, while the defence had been placed under severe restrictions not to discuss the case, "persons with intimate knowledge of the prosecution documents and statements do not feel bound by any constraints and provide particular journalists with information." Some of this was correct but some was wrong.

Bettaney's three-page statement was given to the press by Mr Grant an hour after his client was taken down from the dock at the Central Criminal Court.

Bettaney said: "Those members of the establishment who will condemn me as a traitor to our country speak falsely. Our country is not their monopoly; it is an embodiment of the rights, interests and aspirations of the broad mass of our people, without whose labour by hand and brain the nation could not continue to exist."

The rights of the people were being betrayed, openly and in secret, by the Government. "At home this Government callously uses economic instruments, the most heinous of which is the creation of mass unemployment."

Bettaney said: "In pursuing its domestic policy, the Government relies on the aid of a security service which cynically manipulates the definition of subversion and thus abuses its charter as to investigate and interfere in the activities of legitimate political parties, the Trade Union Movement and other progressive organizations."

The statement ended: "In the struggle for peace and social progress there are many who are ready to sacrifice not merely their liberty but even their lives. As my last political act I call on comrades everywhere to renew their determination and redouble their efforts in pursuit of a victory which is historically inevitable."

He announced his resignation on Sunday night, claiming that the CIA had not kept the committee properly informed of its involvement in the mining of harbours in Nicaragua.

Senator Moynihan, the leading Democrat on the intelligence committee, said a CIA briefing for the committee on March 8 contained only a one-sentence reference in an 81-page manuscript on the activities of US-supported rebels in Nicaragua. He accused the CIA of breaking its "relationship of trust" with the committee, which has a statutory right to receive intelligence information from the agency.

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Ireland forum will report next month

charged with possessing a Luger pistol and .38 revolver with intent to endanger life.

Mr Travers remains seriously ill in Belfast City Hospital.

Full Hearing.
General election June 1983:
Cyrus Valley, Cane, J L Cash \$0.66
Auto, D (SDP/AID) 7,594; Arbuthnot, J
5,940; Jarman, Mrs P (PIC) 3,421; L
majority 13,074.
Stafford: Fraser, Sir H (Con) 87,631
Dean, D (SDP/AID) 15,362; Postler, M J
12,127; Garvie, J (Kinn) 601 212
majority 14,277.
Surrey South West: Macmillan, M
31,067; Scott, G L/AID 16,714; Williams
E D Lab 4,239; C majority 14,361.

Roy Grimshaw, aged 35, biology teacher, of Bury, Lancashire, who was jailed for six years for posing as a doctor and carrying out gynaecological operations had his sentence cut to four and a half years by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The coal board said the only damage to its stocks was that coal at the bottom of the stockpiles was being crushed by the weight from above. "The coal has to be crushed in any case for industrial boilers."

of 101es Court, near Marlborough, secured a total of £182,181 with six per cent unsold. The contents of the fine Commonwealth mansion were being sold on behalf of Mrs L Mackay.

At Christie's in London a sale of fine Eastern textiles, rugs and carpets totalled £116,575 with 48 per cent unsold, including two of the most important lots

Denmark Dir 8.00; Finland NWK 5.00
France Frs 7.50; Germany DMK 3.50
Greece Grs 100; Holland Gt 3.50; Italy
Republic 400; Japan Yen 100; Korea
30; Mexico Mex 120; Morocco Dir 8.00
Norway Kr 8.00; Pakistan Rs 15; Portugal
Esc 120; Singapore S\$ 8.00; Spain Pes 16
Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Fr 3.00
Tunisia Dir 8.00; USA \$1.75; Yugoslavia
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is not perfect and a politician entitled to ask for a fair deal. But he should not just angrily turn his back on anyone who refused to lick his boots."

Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Fmk 5.00; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gld 3.40; Ireland Ir£ 1.00; Italy Lit 2000; Luxembourg Lfr 40; Madeira Esc 120; Morocco Dir 2.00; Norway Kr 8.00; Pakistan Pcs 15; Portugal Esc 120; Singapore S\$ 2.00; Spain Ptas 166.64; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland Sfr 1.00; Taiwan Dln 2.00; USA \$1.78; Yugoslavia Din 100

Office records. It is also popular with overseas visitors, who provided about a quarter of its annual readership of 43,000. Most come from north

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Pay levels a reflection of supply and demand, Joseph tells teachers

By Colin Hughes

Teachers are being paid less than policemen simply as a reflection of supply and demand, Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, said yesterday.

Police pay has risen because officers have been leaving the force in droves. "It's not like that in education," Sir Keith told the annual conference in Bournemouth of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

He later told a press conference that applications for teacher training were the best in

memory and teachers were in the "top bracket for job security - if not the most secure". Their pay levels reflected their higher job satisfaction and low market demand.

Sir Keith saw no reason why this year's pay talks had broken down, as he believed "they had not exhausted their potential".

In his address to the annual conference, Sir Keith presented his first detailed reassessment of education policy since his Sheffield speech earlier this year.

equately to test more able pupils.

He said that children with good GCE grades were often found to be lacking in basic skills. More practical and oral skills should be tested.

Plans to introduce detailed national criteria for judging examination grades would not mean a "driving test with large".

He said, but would ensure that candidates needed a full knowledge of the subject.

He expected all 16-plus syllabuses to be brought under national criteria within two to three years, and committed himself to issuing policy statements on science and foreign languages curricula by the end of the year.

Sir Keith emphasized that if spending on books, equipment, and maintenance was squeezed, it was largely because of numbers of teachers and their salaries.

Mr Alan Meredith, the association's executive member for Warwickshire said in a vote of thanks to Sir Keith: "If he wants good teachers he has to pay for good teachers."

Scottish teachers have voted narrowly in favour of accepting a 4.5 per cent pay offer. The Educational Institute of Scotland said the ballot had produced 52 per cent in favour of acceptance.



Sir Keith addressing the teachers yesterday

Director, 96, stages revival

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

George Abbott, the American actor, writer and director, who is now 96, surprised the West End yesterday by announcing that he is to supervise a revival of the Rodgers and Hart musical, *On Your Toes*, at the Palace Theatre from June 12.

Mr Abbott, who made his stage debut in 1913, cowrote the show, last seen in London at the

Palace in 1937. He directed its Broadway revival last year. The Russian ballerina, Natalia Makarova, who defected in 1970 and now lives in London, made her musical debut in the Broadway revival and will accompany it to the West End.

Michael White, the West End impresario who will coproduce the show with The Really Useful Theatre Company, said

"George Abbott will be in charge of the overall direction. He is remarkably agile."

Mr Abbott rewrote key scenes for the musical's revival. The Broadway production won the 1983 Tony Award as best revival and Miss Makarova a Tony for her performance as the Russian ballet star who becomes involved with an American professor.

Tributes to Cooper, the comedians' favourite

By Alan Hamilton

Tommy Cooper, the crag-featured comedian whose profile seemed carved from a combination of a relief map of Norway, the north face of the Eiger and an Easter Island sculpture, was a comic's comic, his friends said yesterday.

Cooper, aged 62, collapsed and died during a live television show from Her Majesty's Theatre, London, on Sunday night. He had a history of heart trouble.

His agent, Mr Miff Ferrie, said yesterday that no arrangements had been made for a funeral, but Cooper himself remarked shortly before his death that he had left instructions for a cremation. "If only to enable his agent to claim 15 per cent of the ashes."

Fellow comedian Eric More-combe, who himself nearly died from a heart attack after a performance, said of Cooper: "He was one of the great funny men; he was absolutely fantastic. No other comic would work for him, he was too good."

"His greatest talent was not that he could get tricks wrong - he was a good magician - but that he could tell you something very real and sad, and still make you laugh. He also had this fantastic expression."

Mr Philip Jones, head of light entertainment at Thames Television, where Cooper made many programmes, said: "Tommy was the funniest man in Britain; he was a man who was not only popular with the public, but also made all the other comedians laugh as well."

In an interview published shortly before his death, Cooper disclosed that he had been ordered by his doctors to give up smoking - he was heavy cigar smoker - and had done so for three months.

He also confessed in the same interview that he had not the faintest idea why people found him funny.

Obituary, page 16



Pedal appeal: The Dean of St Albans, the Very Rev Peter Moore, taking to wheels yesterday to launch the "Cycle round the See" event being organized by the diocese on May 7. The organizers hope that cyclists of all skills will be sponsored "for athleticism and fun" to help to raise the £250,000 needed for the St Albans Cathedral appeal. Entrants will be offered a choice of routes in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, each 84 miles long, or may opt for one or more short stages by cycling from one deanery "pivot point" to another (Photograph: John Manning).

Police may not hold people to caution them, judges rule

A police officer who took hold of a woman's arm because she refused to answer questions was acting unlawfully, two Court of Appeal judges ruled in London yesterday.

The woman was with a known prostitute in Craven Road, Paddington, and both were suspected of soliciting men in the street, Lord Justice Goff said.

Woman Police Constable Tracey Wilcock and a male colleague asked the two women to get into their police car.

The known prostitute did, but Alexis Collins walked on, refused to give her name and address, and twice refused requests to stop.

WPC Wilcock took hold of her left arm to restrain her and she shouted abuse and scratched the officer's right forearm with her fingernails.

She was then arrested and was later fined £50 for assaulting a police officer. That conviction was quashed yesterday and the fine set aside.

Lord Justice Goff, who sat with Mr Justice Mann, said the magistrate had said he considered the officer had not acted unreasonably in placing her

hand on the woman's arm to restrain her from moving away again.

"But the fundamental principle, plain and incontestable, is that every person's body is inviolate," the judge said.

A police officer could lawfully subject a person to restraint when exercising power of arrest. But the woman in this case was not being arrested, and in such circumstances "police officers have no greater rights than ordinary citizens".

Counsel for the officer submitted that police had the power to stop and detain women found loitering or soliciting to find out their names and addresses and, if appropriate, caution them.

The judge said he did not accept that. Police officers did not have the power to stop and detain women for cautioning. "If a police officer, not exercising his power of arrest, nevertheless reinforces his request with the actual use of force, or with the threat to use force if the other person does not comply, then his act is thereby detaining the other person who is unlawful," the appeal judge said.

Law report, page 22

Sainsbury beefburgers removed from shelves

By Robin Young

Sainsbury, the supermarket chain, is withdrawing business worth more than £4m a year from Henry Telfer, the Unigate meat products subsidiary, after discovering what it calls "significant and completely unacceptable departures from the agreed specification" for its own label beefburgers.

Investigations which disclosed certain practices at Telfer's Northampton plant began after Sainsbury's received

an anonymous letter, apparently from one of the staff. Sainsbury has now cleared its shelves of beefburgers and returned all unsold stocks.

A spokesman for Unigate said yesterday that sabotage was not suspected. "We do not know how many people have been involved, but the trouble was firmly based at Henry Telfer Ltd. When we have got to the bottom of it, the necessary action will be taken."

O level revision by computer

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Students revising for their O levels and CSE examinations this year can be helped by their home microcomputers and a series of specially designed computer programs launched yesterday by the educational publishers, Longman.

Programs have been written for mathematics, physics, chemistry, computer studies and music. The series will be extended, depending on its success, and English literature and geography are among subjects being considered.

All except music programs have been designed for the Sinclair ZX Spectrum and the Commodore 64 microcomputers. The music package is for the BBC Microcomputer.

The creators of the educational programs say the O level and CSE syllabuses have been carefully researched to ensure that all the key topics are

covered and that the programs complement classroom learning.

The programs are loaded on cassette and each is accompanied by a dozen pages of support notes.

Examples of the main areas covered are: Physics: formulae and equations, simulation of light experiments, electronic circuits and the generation of waveforms; mathematics: formulae, geometry, trigonometry and probability theory; chemistry: chemical elements, molecular weights, laboratory experiments and chemical reactions; computer studies.

The music programs test the students' aural abilities using the sound reproduction capabilities of the BBC Microcomputer.

All programs cost £7.95, except the music package, which is £9.95.

Ice pair give BBC sole top 50 slot

The performance of Torvill and Dean in the compulsory section of the World Figure Skating Championships gave the BBC its only entry in the 50 most popular television programmes for March.

Highlights from the couple's dances broadcast on March 22 attracted an audience of 13.75 million, the 26th largest of the month, according to figures from the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board, the joint BBC/ITV rating body.

Every other place in the Top 50 was won by ITV. Last week's *It'll Be Alright on the Night* 4 took first place with an audience of 16.9 million and Coronation Street took nine of the Top 20 places.

Policemen win 'Eye' libel case

Mr Charles McLachlan, the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire and two other senior police officers from the county were awarded substantial libel damages with costs in the High Court yesterday over allegations of corruption in the satirical magazine *Private Eye*.

Mr David Eady, QC, for Mr McLachlan, Mr John McNaught, head of CID, and Chief Sup. James Smedley, said that an article published in November 1981 suggested that regular procedures were in place to cover up a shop theft. Mr Richard Ingram, editor of the magazine, and the publishers apologized to the officers.

Damage charges

Seven people will appear in court next month after part of the Wembley Conference Centre was damaged yesterday after four Indian film stars failed to appear at a Punjabi Sikh celebration attended by 2,500 people. Damage estimated at £10,000 was caused.

Farmer 'warned twice'

A farmer was warned twice about safety before an accident which severed the left arm of his farm manager, but he failed to comply with the regulations, a court was told yesterday.

After the baling machine accident, which happened last June, Mr Roy Tapping, aged 34, carried his severed arm for a quarter of a mile as he sought help. Surgeons at Stoke Mandeville Hospital later sewed it back on.

Richard Markham, aged 43, of Home Farm, Henton, near Chinnor, Oxfordshire, denied failing to provide or maintain safe equipment and four offences of permitting an unguarded tractor and baler to be used.

Health and Safety Executive inspectors had told Mr Markham to have guards fitted just weeks before and in 1979, Mr Redgrave said.



Mr Tapping: Severed arm sown back

Consumer service fights for survival

By Craig Seton

Watchdog with its teeth into everything

In the 10 years since it was established the consumer services department of West Midlands County Council has become one of the most prominent public watchdogs in Britain, pursuing poor quality imported counterfeit goods as zealously as it tracks down shady dealers who turn back car mileage clocks.

The department, which has an annual budget of nearly £3m and a staff of more than 250, is mounting a campaign to continue its work despite the Government's proposal to abolish the six English metropolitan authorities.

Never shy of publicity - it is one of the chief weapons in its armoury - the department is the largest in Britain and claims to be the leading consumer protection body in Europe.

Mr Michael Hilburn, chairman of the West Midlands consumer services committee, said yesterday that if the work of the department was divided

between the seven local districts, "consumers will be held to ransom by con men, counterfeiter and rogue traders."

The department handles 30,000 complaints and inquiries a year and initiates more than 1,600 prosecutions. Mr Hilburn said that it was Britain's most cost-effective consumer department, the trading standards units of the London boroughs cost 169.5p a head in the West Midlands.

He said: "We now enforce 30 laws, most of them enacted since 1974. The whole business has changed drastically and our service is essential."

"We deal with overweight lozenges, counterfeiting, credit fraud, deception of meat, car servicing, the safety of all items and every service sold to the general public through a retail outlet."

The department has launched "undercover" operations, buying cars to test garage servicing and repairs and television sets to check costs of

repairs. It has examined the weight and price of Easter eggs and tracked down faulty imported hairdryers.

It has its own computer linked directly with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre in Swansea and can check the mileage of second-hand cars advertised or put on sale through dealers and auctions.

"We are running an investigation department but all our methods are legitimate. We do not make ourselves popular but it is part of our policy not only to let the rogues know we are there but to educate the consumer to create a fair trading environment. It is our policy to support the legitimate trader."

Mr Charles Hicks, the director of the department, said: "There has been a great change since the days of the simple weights and measures department. People now have the tendency to want wrongs put right and they are much more prepared to complain."

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Midland Money Market Accounts
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Race and education: 2

How teachers break down language barrier

In the final part of a series on the prescriptive multicultural policy of education in Bradford, COLIN HUGHES visits three schools to assess their reaction to changes which many are claiming as a model for future racial harmony

When Mr Alan Stephenson, head teacher at Waverley Middle School in Bradford, introduced halal meat for his Muslim pupils at school dinner, he was confronted by a barrage of complaints.

Not because the Muslims doubted that the cooking had been properly supervised by an imam, but because the meat was served with rice. The children wanted chips.

Mr Stephenson sees the incident as symbolic of the tensions within the Asian community which, while being determined to fight to keep its culture intact, wishes to adopt the more enticing aspects of British culture.

Chips with everything may not seem a universal advantage, but good examination results are. Statistics recently compiled by the education authority from the Department of Education schools survey have provided the Asians with strong evidence that the policies of the past have failed.

Although all the teachers agree that bright Asians aspire higher and apply themselves more assiduously than the average white child, the figures show that examination results are comparatively appalling among most Asian pupils.

Last year, the survey showed, 14 per cent of white pupils left school with no qualifications at all, compared with more than twice as many non-whites, 30 per cent. At the more able end, only 14 per cent of non-whites left with five or more good grades in O level, or CSE, contrasting with 24 per cent of whites.

As yet Bradford has barely begun to tackle the issues raised by these results. Teachers of English as a second language (E2L), mostly funded by central government grants directed at alleviating racial problems in the inner city, are being taken on to concentrate on language, which most teachers see as the Asians' greatest barrier to progress.

At Whetley First School, for example, pupils enter a preliminary class under a trained E2L teacher before entering the school proper, where other E2L teachers work alongside class teachers to concentrate on language. The extra staff are needed on simple educational grounds: 59 per cent of Asian children enter school speaking little or no English because they have been brought up by mothers who speak only Urdu, Gujarati, Punjabi or Bengali.

Mrs Eileen Clancy, head teacher at Whetley, wants to do further. She believes that if the children continued learning and using their home language in school alongside English they would pick up English more quickly.

Ms Jane Bingham, her deputy, aims still higher. "Why shouldn't we teach geography and history in Punjabi, Gujarati or Urdu, just as the Welsh colleges teach philosophy in Welsh?"

Mrs Clancy has the English words printed on the children's reading cards translated into Asian script beneath, to give "dog" or "tree" in Urdu. "The children probably cannot read it, but you should have seen their eyes light up when they



Classroom harmony: Children at Whetley School, Bradford, where different cultures mix with ease.

saw it: it gave them confidence.

She also brings in an educated Asian mother to read in Urdu to the children, and after school Asian parents and pupils can attend Asian language lessons in the building. The idea called community language teaching, is controversial.

Whetley is one of the most radically multicultural schools in the city, and has changed drastically over the past year. When Mrs Clancy arrived in early 1983 she gutted the library.

One teacher describes finding a book which told the story of a jungle founding called "Inky Doc, the Wild Boy", who is discovered, taken home, and scrubbed until he turns white. That, in a school 70 per cent Asian.

Mrs Clancy sees the city council's policy changes as only scratching the surface, but accepts that change must be gradual, to carry along teachers whose former ways die hard.

Whetley was also obliged to change, having been earmarked by the Muslims as one of the five schools they wanted to take over for voluntary aided status.

The white parents soon realized that the Asian educational model would include teaching Koranic scripture and accepted that they had no choice but to give way.

Mr Stephenson, at Waverley Middle, says that his school had already adopted most of the measures recently prescribed by the council and he resented the suggestion that he had not followed multicultural practices on his own initiative.

In the 15 years since he arrived the number of children descended from immigrants has grown from 37 to 550 out of 700. "We knew what was happening and changed to meet the needs." The school is as colourful and attractive as Whetley, with displays on subjects such as the family, using racial variety to emphasize the difference in pupils' backgrounds.

But Mr Stephenson is reluctant to adopt the progressive language measures used by Whetley, which involve bringing parents into the school. He prefers to wait until trained Asians are available.

It is at the secondary level, in schools such as Rhodesway comprehensive, that cultural differences cause the greatest

social problems. Asian children find themselves trapped between loyalty to their parents and culture, and eagerness to enjoy the comparative freedom of their white contemporaries. Asian fathers do not accompany their children aged five to and from school, but those aged 16 are kept close to hand.

Mr Malcolm Briggs, the head teacher at Rhodesway, has accepted the spirit of the multicultural policy enthusiastically, but suspects that sledgehammers are being used to crack nuts. He believes that initially, at least, the high profile the policy has given to race in Bradford has led to more overt racism than he would expect.

There are three times as many Asians entering first schools such as Whetley, as there are leaving upper schools.

As Asian parents discover how much right under British law they have to determine their children's education, they will ask to enter the teacher's inner sanctum; curriculum. The next phase, as this year's entrants pass through the new system over the next decade, will raise as many issues as have so far been tackled.

Concluded

Bishop says economic red light is flashing

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Changes in government economic policies are called for tonight by the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, in his 1984 Richard Dimbleby lecture on BBC television. Britain was deeply divided, and from the "Other Britain" there was a cry of pain, he said in the text of the lecture issued this morning.

Free market competition was, he conceded, economically efficient. "But a widening gap between governments and governed makes for a dangerous alienation and anger which could block or smash all our proper growth. Where is efficiency then?" he asked. He repeated a warning he had heard from a local councillor: "The Government is in danger of pushing people too far. The red light is flashing."

The point could come when individual economic freedom, as supported by free market economists, caused damage to others, especially the poor. "For example, if there is to be a proper share of investment in Merseyside, firms may have to be restrained from investing in the Thames Valley."

He advocated universal training or education until the age of 19, and a government public works services programme to provide jobs not supplied by free market economics. It would mean higher taxes, but "politicians should renounce exploiting the grudging unwillingness of the better off to pay more taxes. Why can't they give a lead, and say that this is a way in which those who have great advantages can express being 'members of another' in one nation?"

The alternative was what he called "whistling in the dark hoping that full employment will return, and tolerating an existence on the dole which robs them of any choices and indeed imprisons the spirit." That was not acceptable. He particularly deplored the suggestion that the cure was mobility as that would drain communities of their more self-confident and able members, increasing the depression of those left behind.

He said the church's concern with poverty was no "off-beat radical theology", but sprung from mainstream Christianity. Bishops at their consecration were charged "to have a special care for the outcast and the needy". Nor was it a distraction from eternal spiritual matters.

The more he faced such great human issues, the more he felt himself forced back to his spiritual resources, the bishop said.

"This week church people live through the greatest events in the Christian story on Good Friday and Easter Day. The religion of Good Friday is not at all about successful problem solving. It is about God forgiving and reaching out to people who fail."

Short, sharp shock 'does not stop repeat offences'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A government report on "short sharp shock" regimes for young offenders will show they have failed to reduce reoffending rates, according to the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro).

Miss Vivien Stern, Nacro's director, predicted the findings yesterday when commenting on a Nacro briefing paper being published today on the experimental tough regime.

She said: "It was bound to fail. I am convinced that, when the evaluation of the experiment is published this summer, it will show yet again the failure of negative approach to reduce crime or sustain prison officers' confidence."

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said last week that some features of the tougher regimes were to be maintained or extended to all detention centres.

But Miss Stern, said yesterday that research had consistently shown that tough regimes were just as ineffective in preventing reoffending as other forms of custody.

She said: "It is a delusion to believe that making young people move from one task to another at the double and take part in repeated drills, parades and inspections will do anything to steer them away from crime."

Nacro's briefing paper examines the regimes which started at four detention centres in 1980 and 1981.

It quotes a report by the Prison Officers' Association, which makes detailed criticisms of the regimes, saying they do not enjoy the confidence of prison officers and reduce staff morale.

Tougher Regimes in Detention Centres, Nacro, 164 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PL.

Fishermen 'should fund lighthouses'

By Kenneth Gosling

Fishermen and yachtsmen should share the cost of Britain's lighthouse and lightship service, a report is expected to recommend next month.

The report, commissioned from management consultants by the Department of Transport and the three lighthouse authorities, is understood to shed light on the poor financial framework within which they operate.

It estimates that £1.5m could be raised by charging vessels of more than 12 metres £500 a year and smaller vessels £100.

In 1982-83, the 93 lighthouses and 21 light vessels maintained by Trinity House cost nearly £25m. The Northern Lighthouse Board, responsible for Scotland and the Isle of Man, spent £9.7m and the Commissioners of Irish Lights £7.8m.

The measures recommended are likely to be controversial and need considerable negotiation.

The fishing industry, the report says, should not be excluded from light dues; and it says there should be provision for an annual charge per vessel, administered through the register held by the Customs and Excise. Some manpower reductions in the lighthouse service are also expected to be sought.

A Trinity House automation programme is already well under way. Of its 21 vessels, three are completely automatic, and only 41 lighthouses are manned 24 hours a day.

Almost all the income needed to run the three authorities comes from British and foreign shipping companies using their navigational aids.

Two fires on HMS Victory

Detonations are investigating

two fires on board HMS Victory in Portsmouth dockyard early yesterday.

The first, at 1.30 am, was found in the lower gun deck of Nelson's flagship, and the second, less than an hour later, in the hold of the wooden ship.

Both set off alarm systems, and staff extinguished the fires before the fire brigade arrived. There was little damage.

Hampshire police said both fires were being treated as arson.

Drugs remand

Clara McPhee, aged 35, unemployed, and Walter Frager, aged 38, a music promoter, of Priory Road, Hornsey, were remanded in custody until Thursday by Highgate magistrates yesterday, charged with possessing £1.5m of cocaine.

6,000 hens killed

Six thousand laying hens infected with fowl pest on a farm at Milton Clevedon, Somerset, were gassed yesterday by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Flood alert

A flood watch was mounted at Burghout-on-Sea, Somerset, yesterday after high tides driven by gales undermined a multi-million-pound sea defence scheme and washed away 4,000 tons of stone.

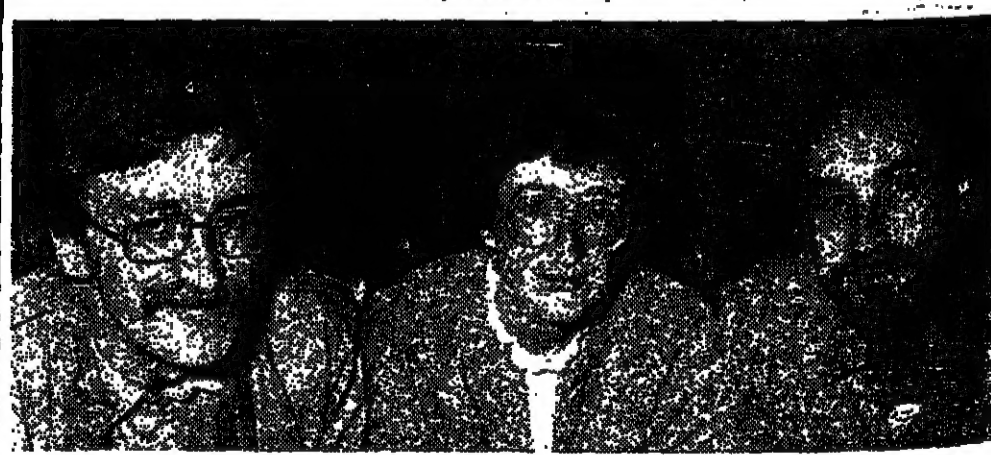
£40,000 raid

Two robbers in their twenties armed with shotguns took £40,000 in an early morning raid on a post office van in Plymouth yesterday.

Whitehall brief

Lunchtime unity at GCHQ

By Peter Hennessy



Cheltenham resistance (left to right): Mr Jeremy Windust, Dr Anne Gibbens and Mr Richard Gibbens.

In Cheltenham it is not difficult to spot a Government Communications Headquarters recusant who has refused to sign away his or her union membership. They all wear a badge marked "GCHQ Trade Unions".

Many also sport a brooch with "Solidarity" in bright red on a white background, though this is no Cotswold underground movement.

They are by choice an overground resistance. Every lunchtime they set up shop in the canteens of the Benhall and Oakley sites at GCHQ.

They occupy tables groaning with union literature. Business was brisk last week: it is the beginning of the Civil Service pay season and those GCHQ officials who have signed away their union membership have no other form of regular information as the new in-house staff association has yet to get off the ground.

GCHQ "Solidarity" is quite small. Only between 100 and 160 out of a total of some 4,800 formerly unionized employees at Cheltenham, and its outstations at home and abroad have either asked for a transfer, indicated their desire to remain at GCHQ and belong to a national trade union, or omitted to sign any of the three options available.

They meet every Monday night at the Carlton Hotel, in Cheltenham. They vary in age

from early twenties, to late fifties, in skills from mathematicians and linguists to radio technicians and clerical officers and, so far, seem to delight in each other's company.

There is still a good deal of surprise about who stood fast and who succumbed. Some colleagues who were union activists have signed the renunciation clause known as option A. Others never previously active have held out on principle.

They are quiet, intelligent people, middle class deferential types, they say, not used to standing up to authority. All are convinced believers in the need for high quality signals and electronic intelligence as an indispensable input into Britain's defences.

None has had security clearance withdrawn. All continue to do the jobs they performed before the union ban came into force on March 1.

Occasionally a note of fury intrudes into the conversation. Mr Bruce Heywood, a technician aged 38 who has worked at GCHQ for 20 years, said: "My first responsibility is to the country. If there had been a good reason for the ban, the union would have been on a hiding to nothing."

Mr Richard Gibbens, aged 33, a Russian and German linguist (his wife, Anne, also a Russian specialist is holding

out too) reckoned at first there must be more to the ban than met the eye. He was convinced the staff, all of whom are positively vetted and undergo an "indoctrination" into the secret world, would be told privately the real reason.

"We waited and waited but nothing came. On the day of the deadline for signing, the atmosphere was electric. People were breaking down. It was just a dark fear," he said.

Morale is low at GCHQ, the recusants reckon, but they find it impossible to measure. The impairment of efficiency, they believe, will time to judge, they believe, will be in the early autumn when they expect a fair number of the technicians and computer staff, some of whom GCHQ has been perennially short because of competition from high-tech companies which pay more.

What future awaits members of the Cheltenham resistance? Mr Jeremy Windust, a higher executive officer, aged 32, says that unless the judicial review in June of the union ban is decided in favour of the union and upheld by the European Court they will be reduced to a tiny core of less than fifty in two or three years. "But we have just got to keep signing to make them realize we are not sleeping trade unionists."

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Buhari's first 100 days: Part 2

Time for the painful axe to fall on extravagance

The second of three articles by Kenneth Mackenzie on Nigeria after 100 days of military rule looks at the economy.

Nigeria's economic crisis can be seen at three levels: A mountain of international debts must be dealt with immediately; in the longer term the gap between Nigeria's international earnings and spending must be bridged; and at grassroots the sharp inflation and mounting shortages the housewife faces in the markets must be controlled.

On the first matter, the military men are following the course set by the Shagari civilian Government, with the same civil servants in charge. This involves negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a long-term loan and with a consortium of banks for the rescheduling of short-term debts.

The bankers insist on an IMF seal of approval, as it were, before they will agree to wait for their money, which is why a new Saudi Arabian offer of a big loan, though helpful, is in the end irrelevant.

An IMF team is in Lagos now for perhaps the final round of negotiations. The sticking point is IMF pressure for devaluation of the naira. Nigerians react to this suggestion with horror, as if it were a reflection on their manhood.

In fact, the official rate for the naira has long lost credibility; you get 1.1 naira for your £1 in

the bank, and about three naira on the street corner.

The debts are huge and pressing, but this is the least of Nigeria's problems. Agreement can be reached with the IMF. Nigeria has resources and is under borrowed by Mexico or Brazilian standards.

The more insoluble problem is that devastating gap between earnings and spending. In 1980 oil revenue was 13.63bn naira. It fell to 10.45bn in 1981, 8.58bn in 1982 and 7.0bn in 1983.

In the meantime imports rose from 9.0bn naira in 1980 to 12.92bn in 1981 and probably higher in 1982, though by then alarm bells were sounding.

The most essential thing is to cut expenditure. This is being done with a blunt axe - bills are not paid and business activity has almost ground to a halt.

As an example that can be duplicated hundreds of times, I met a man who ran a business bagging cement imported from Spain. The suppliers have now stopped sending, because the Central Bank of Nigeria has not allowed them to be paid in foreign currency. The plant is idle, the workers unemployed.

The difficult trick is to cut expenditure overseas and yet maintain some business expansion and prosperity. A committee is looking at the big projects and will presumably cut the wasteful ones while

finding ways to continue ones that will pay dividends.

Further than that, a complete revolution in the Nigerian way of life is needed; a rediscovery of a taste for local foods (yams and cassava) instead of imported rice and wheat; a turning away from imported luxuries.

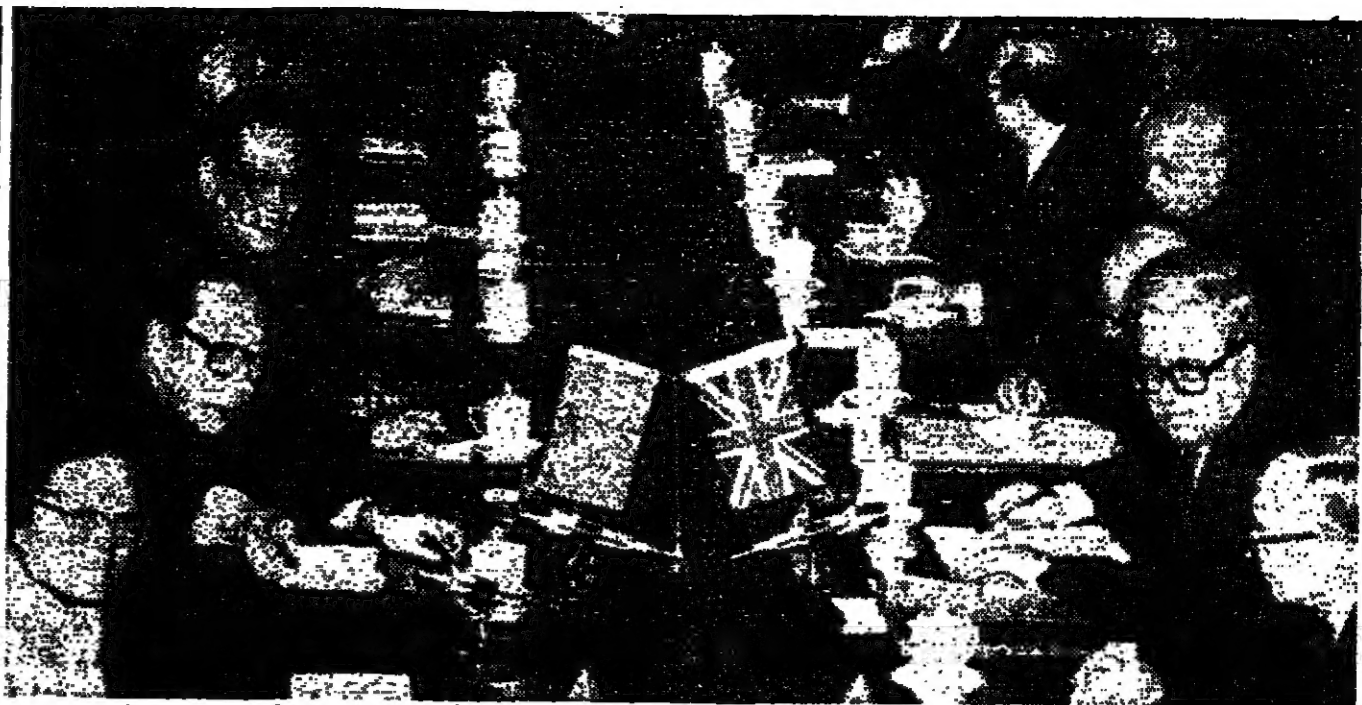
The question is whether the military have the economic finesse to manage this or the ideological steam to inspire it. In the meantime, there is much misery for the ordinary man and woman. There are no figures, but unemployment undoubtedly mounts.

Prices soar. Rice is twice as expensive as it was at Christmas. Drought has meant real food shortages in places and commodities generally are short.

The mounting crime wave, in spite of stern police measures and the threat of public execution of armed robbers, is a symptom. Unions lack the muscle to take on a military government, but there are signs of labour unrest. I saw huge queues of cars at Lagos filling stations because tanker drivers temporarily stopped work.

The timetable for easing economic problems depends not only on how the IMF talks go; it depends also on how much pressure can be brought to bear by families who can only afford one meal a day.

Tomorrow: Politics survives



Choosing course: Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, discussing the future of Hongkong with his Chinese counterpart, Mr Wu Xueqian (pointing), in Peking yesterday.

Poles fight for rights of prisoners

From Roger Boyes Warsaw

In a dramatic appeal from the pulpit, a group of leading dissidents, Solidarity sympathizers and Catholic activists have urged the Polish parliament to protect the rights of political prisoners and to prevent a return to Stalinist-style repression.

The appeal comes in the form of a letter to the internal affairs and Justice Commissions of the Polish parliament and is intended to pressure the Jaruzelski Government into abandoning some of the tougher

moves - including arrests of intellectuals and a wave of searches - of recent weeks.

"The replacement of all tenets of political ethics by brutality and revenge nurtures blind terror which, as we know from recent history, hurts both the victors and the vanquished", the letter says.

Written by former internees and political prisoners, the letter was read on Sunday after a Mass at the Carmelite church in the Old Town district of

Warsaw. It said that before December 1983, political prisoners had the right to read officially published newspapers and books and were granted more visits from relatives than common criminals.

Since then, "all these rights were withdrawn and harassment was stepped up, leading to protests and hunger strikes" in the main prisons housing political offenders. According to official figures there are 416 political prisoners in Poland. Most are Solidarity activists

and former workers in the underground opposition.

Referring to the post-war Stalinist years, the letter said: "After the tragic experience of our history, which includes the period of errors and deviations, we know how dangerous are policies which fulfill themselves through harassment of political prisoners."

After the Mass, several hundred of the congregation - among them many relatives of political prisoners - queued up to sign the letter.

Portugal to seek help of Thatcher on EEC

From Richard Wigg Lisbon

Portugal will be looking for unambiguous British backing for its application to the EEC by January, 1986, in talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who arrives here today.

Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist Prime Minister, first lodged Portugal's entry application in 1977, and he wants to push the EEC membership as the main business of Mrs Thatcher's three-day visit.

But in the face of French insinuations that Britain's contribution problem threatens Portugal's entry, Mrs Thatcher is expected to argue publicly Britain's case.

The possibility of Portugal - a country poorer even than Greece - becoming a net contributor means that Mrs Thatcher's argument would fall on sympathetic ears. Writing in this week's *Expresso*, the Lisbon news weekly, Senhor Paulo Marques, a former Deputy Foreign Minister, virtually echoes Mrs Thatcher's case for a fairer pay formula for EEC members' contributions. The ancient alliance with Britain, he argued, might again serve Portugal's best interest.

Aeroflot cleared

Paris (AFP) - A Soviet Aeroflot flight which overflew Toulon did not fly deliberately over the militarily sensitive area, the Prime Minister's office announced after an inquiry.

Sikh vendetta after Amritsar murders

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A bloody vendetta between groups of extreme Sikh militants has suddenly shattered the paper-thin veneer of unanimity which has held the opposing factions together.

Yesterday, the body count began to mount around the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest of holy Sikh shrines, which has been turned into an armed camp by the militant groups.

The killings began at the weekend, when Surinder Singh Sodhi, a wanted terrorist who is known to have been a close associate of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, was killed while taking tea just outside the Golden Temple precincts.

His assailants, a man and a woman team, are thought to have been supporters of the rival holy man, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, the so-called dictator of the Morchas as the Sikh agitation is known. As they fled into the Golden Temple, the woman ran into the hands of some supporters of Sant Bhindranwale.

The alleged tape-recorded confession of the woman, identified as Baljit Kaur, was produced by the Bhindranwale camp later, and the body of a woman, believed to be Baljit Kaur, was found inside the temple complex.

Yesterday, the headless body of a man, cut into six more pieces, was found in a ditch on the Amritsar-Jalandhar Road.

India's famous grand trunk road, which stretches from Calcutta to Peshawar. It was identified as that of Surinder Singh Chhinda, the man allegedly involved in the temple shooting.

At the same time, a poster in Punjabi script, bearing photographs of Chhinda and Baljit Kaur, appeared outside one of the lodging houses within the temple complex. The poster declared that Mr Chhinda was the murderer of Mr Sodhi and had been "eliminated" within 24 hours of the killing. It served warning that "the rest should be ready to meet their fate."

Yesterday, true to their word, a band of gunmen went to a tea-shop near the temple and killed Mr Malik Singh Bhatia, president of the Amritsar unit of that faction of the Akali Dal, the Sikh political party, led by Mr Jagden Singh Talwinder, yet another militant leader who is at present confined under the country's National Security Act.

Mr Bhatia had been named in Baljit Kaur's confession as among those who had conspired to kill Mr Sodhi.

In yet another incident yesterday, which may or may not be related to the Golden Temple feud, a Sikh priest died in a hall of gunfire as three terrorists sprayed his car with bullets on the road about 25 miles from Amritsar.

100,000 flee Vietnam offensive

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

Almost 100,000 new refugees have fled into Thailand from Vietnam's military offensive in western Cambodia during the past three weeks, according to Thai and United Nations officials. Most arrived in one panic-stricken wave over the weekend, fleeing artillery, tank and infantry attacks by Vietnam's 160,000-strong occupation army.

Two-thirds of them came from two strongholds in north-western Cambodia of non-communist elements in the anti-Vietnamese coalition, but others crossed central and southern sections of the border from Khmer Rouge bases.

There are still no authoritative casualty details from the latest fighting except one report from the International Red Cross saying that 50 severely wounded Cambodians had been admitted to a battle casualty hospital 12 miles from the border.

Thai observers and some foreign diplomats were shocked at the weak resistance put up by the guerrillas to the Vietnam operation at Ampil, the largest of all the border encampments. Resistance lasted barely half an hour, according to refugees, which is certain to damage the pride and morale of the resistance movement.

The lightly armed, often undisciplined guerrillas were no match for the Vietnamese, who have found the harshly disciplined Khmer Rouge much more formidable.

A freelance American television cameraman, who filmed Vietnam's pre-dawn attack at Ampil, said it was a complete surprise as everybody was asleep at the time. Apparently guerrillas guarding the outer perimeter of the Ampil base were sleeping off the effects of celebrating the Khmer New Year which fell at the weekend.

Prisoners of conscience



Soviet Union: Vasyi Sichko

By Caroline Moorehead Vasyi Sichko, aged 28, a member of the Ukrainian Helsinki monitoring group, is serving a second three-year sentence in a corrective labour colony in Cherkassy, accused of "smuggling or marketing narcotics" and storing a quantity of hashish in his locker.

He has denied the charges. Tests have shown no signs of drug-taking in his body, and his family believes that he has been victimized. Other prisoners of conscience in the past have been charged with similar criminal offences, including theft and attempted rape, later shown to have been fabricated.

Mr Sichko was first arrested in July 1979, together with his father, also a member of the group, and both were convicted of "circulating anti-Soviet slander."



Mr Sichko: Jailed on a trumped-up drugs charge.

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Reagan proposes germ war ban and asks support from Moscow

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan yesterday said he hoped the Soviet Union would respond seriously and negotiate in good faith for a worldwide ban on chemical weapons once it had seen the full United States proposal for such a ban.

The President was speaking at a White House farewell for Vice-President Bush, who will present the draft proposal to the 40-nation disarmament conference in Geneva tomorrow. He said negotiations would be hard "but we are ready to work side by side with the representatives

of the Soviet Union and other countries to achieve the goal of an effective ban on chemical weapons."

The President emphasized the importance of checks in arms control agreements to ensure that no side cheated. He said: "History proves that success in arms control requires ensuring that agreements are lived up to."

He recalled that the 1925 Geneva protocol dealt only with the use of chemical weapons and lacked effective compliance provisions.

President Reagan said: "We must move to ban these weapons now, but not only their use but also the development, production and possession of them. Each country must have confidence that a new international agreement is being complied with. That's what our treaty proposal is designed to do."

"We have worked long and hard to develop it and we think it is a first rate proposal."

He said that the goals and standards set now would do much to determine the success of banning chemical weapons and added that Vice-President Bush's journey to Geneva with the new American proposal reflected US commitment to eliminate forever the threat of chemical warfare.



Mr George Bush: Mission to Geneva.

Communists thwart Craxi pay curb Bill

Rome (AP) - Signor Bettino Craxi's coalition won a confidence vote yesterday, but the Communist-led opposition doomed the Italian Government's hopes of pushing a major anti-inflation measure through the Chamber of Deputies by the midnight deadline.

The vote in the lower chamber was 360 to 236, with one abstention. The Government of the Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals musters a majority in both houses of parliament.

The confidence vote had been called by the coalition in an effort to end Communist-led parliamentary manoeuvres to delay legislative approval.

On February 15 the Cabinet decreed a limit on automatic wage increases, known as the *scala mobile*, of 10 per cent for this year. The measure is designed to keep inflation, now running at 12.5 per cent below 10 per cent for the year.

The decree became effective immediately, but the measure needed approval by both houses of parliament within 60 days or it would lapse.

The Senate overwhelmingly

approved the measure on March 23 after the Government called for a confidence vote on the issue. The vote came one day before 500,000 people converged on Rome to protest against the Government's austerity measures.

However, the Speaker, Signor Wilfredo Jotti, a Communist, ruled out any action on the economic measure before the midnight deadline, saying there were 130 other items on the agenda to be acted on before the chamber could take up the wage escalator issue.

Government ministers said they planned to reintroduce the measure, with slight modifications, after a Cabinet meeting today.

The Communists, Italy's second largest party behind the Christian Democrats, have been leading opposition to the measure, proposing nearly 3,000 amendments and engaging in filibustering.

All told, more than 210 deputies of the Communist and left-wing parties have taken the floor since April 8, each using up the maximum 45 minutes allowed for a single intervention.

British plea for release of Hess

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain yesterday appealed to the Soviet Union again to release Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy at the start of the Second World War, from Spandau prison in West Berlin.

The appeal was made at the Foreign Office by Baroness Young, Deputy Foreign Secretary, to Mr Viatcheslav Dolgov, the Russian chargé d'affaires in London.

Mr Dolgov is understood to have promised that the request will be considered in Moscow but there is no reason to expect the Russians to agree. Britain, France and the United States have made regular appeals in recent years to their old wartime ally to release the aging Hess on humanitarian grounds.

He has been in a prison of one kind or another for nearly 43 years and is the only Nazi war criminal still behind bars. The British approach, the first since 1982, has been prompted by Hess's 90th birthday in two weeks. But Hess's son Wolf also appealed recently to the Foreign Office to make another attempt.

Accra split over troops from Cuba

Accra (AFP) - Two factions in Ghana's military government are at odds over whether to invite 5,000 Cuban troops into the country, sources said yesterday.

The head of state, Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, apparently has yet to make up his mind which faction to back, but Western and African diplomats in Accra expected the Cubans to come soon.

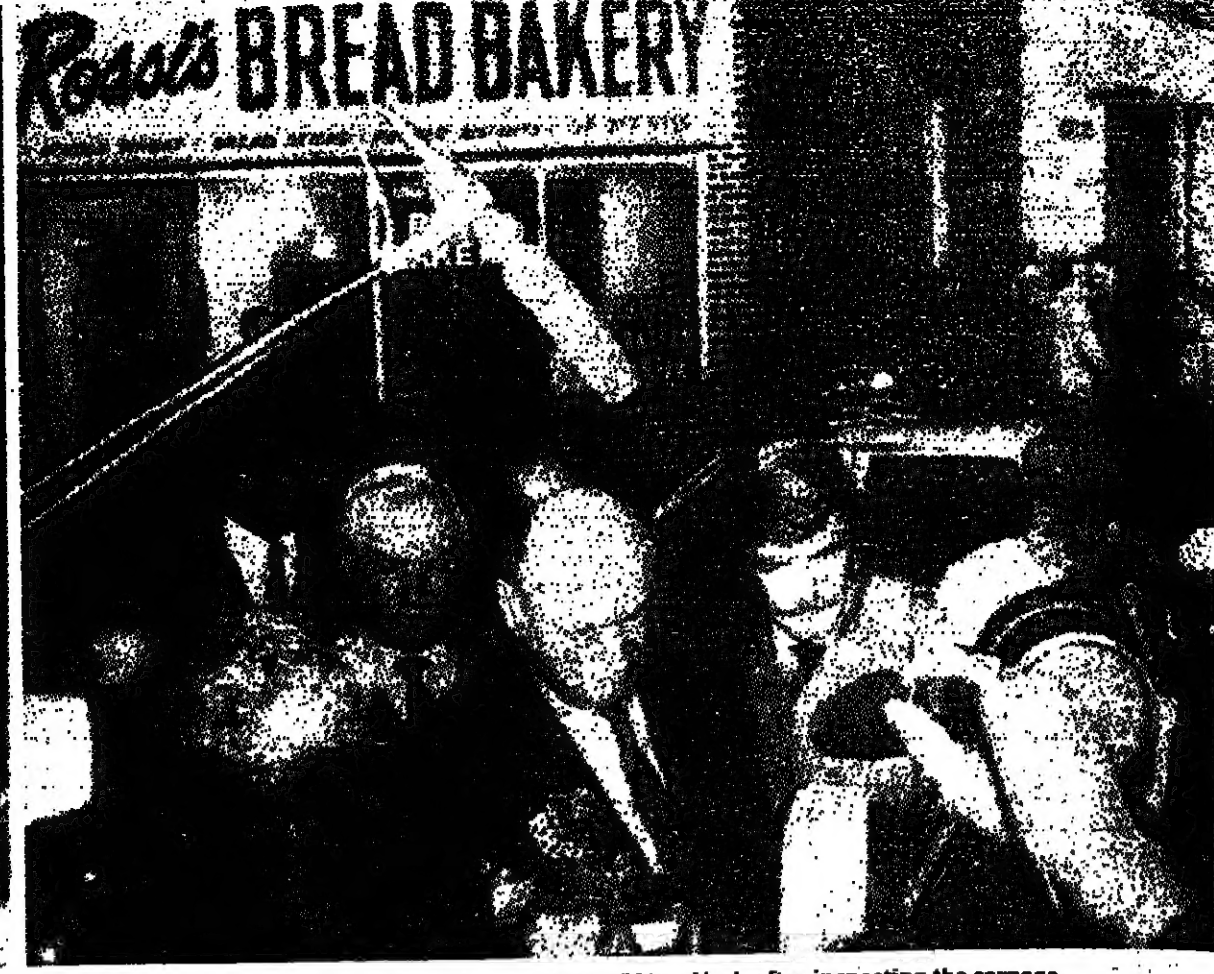
The main backer of a Cuban presence was said to be the special presidential adviser, Mr Kodjo Tsikata, who wants close ties with Eastern Block countries. He is supported by some members of the ruling Provisional National Defence Council, but opposed by a moderate faction.

Diplomats said that 50 Cuban troops, sent from Ethiopia, arrived in Ghana last month to strengthen the bodyguard of Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings.

If the 5,000 Cubans come, it was thought they will be stationed at Tamale, the main northern town, 250 miles from Accra.



Cry of anguish: Mrs Maria Perez, mother of one of the victims, sobbing on the telephone. Right Mayor Edward Koch of New York after inspecting the carnage.



Eight children and two women shot dead in New York massacre

From Trevor Fishlock
New York

A girl aged two was the only survivor of a massacre on Sunday night in New York City. She was found among the bodies of ten people all shot in the head at close range.

Although police could not provide a motive for the murders, it seems that the two women and eight girls and boys who died may have been the victims of an act of vengeance or intimidation by a drugs gang.

They had, apparently, arrived

only recently from Puerto Rico. Neighbours in the borough of Brooklyn heard shooting on Sunday night and a man, said to be the husband of one of the murdered women, emerged from the house screaming.

Inside the house police found

the bodies lying on couches in the living room and on the kitchen floor.

The little girl was found by a neighbour weeping among the bodies. She was spattered with blood. But she was unharmed and is recovering in hospital.

Neighbours said that the victims were a quiet family who could be seen sitting on their porch sometimes.

It was the worst mass killing in New York for many years. Last night two men were being questioned by police.

Salvador embassy security chief shot

From John Carlin, San Salvador

The top Salvadorean in charge of security at the United States Embassy in El Salvador was shot dead by unknown gunmen early yesterday.

Señor Alfredo Zapata, aged 59, was driving to work with his wife in San Salvador when a taxi drew alongside. Five gunmen in the taxi are reported to have opened fire with automatic pistols, riddling the car with bullets and killing him instantly. Señora Zapata was wounded.

Señor Zapata, who leaves behind five children, was the head of a 200-strong Salvadorean security force protecting the US Embassy. He had been working there for eight years.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. The Embassy released a statement saying it "was grieved and outraged by the brutal murder".

"This embassy has repeatedly condemned terrorist acts of all kinds", the statement said. "We repeat our condemnation in the strongest of terms."

So far this year three right-wing politicians and a retired military officer have been killed in similar circumstances.

On those occasions a left-wing terrorist group, a splinter of the rebel mainstream Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, claimed responsibility. There have been fears in El Salvador that violent groups of either the extreme left or the

extreme right might try to sow terror before the run-off presidential election on May 6.

San Salvador (AP) - A member of the Central Election Council fled El Salvador after receiving threats from a rightist death squad, Mgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, the Archbishop of San Salvador, said.

Sources in the Christian Democratic Party, who asked not to be identified, confirmed that Roberto Meza Delgado, vice-president of the Election Council and a party member, left San Salvador on Thursday after finding several sticks of dynamite in his private office.

Mgr Rivera y Damas, in his weekly homily at the Metropolitan Cathedral, said: "We lament that a member of the Central Election Council had to flee the country apparently because of threats from death squads."

After the March 23 election, a rightist death squad said it would investigate bureaucratic foul-ups and would act against Election Council members deemed responsible.

San Salvador now heads towards a May 6 runoff for president between José Napoleón Duarte, of the Moderate Christian Democratic Party, and Roberto D'Aubuisson of the ultraright Republican Nationalist Alliance, neither of whom won a majority on March 23.

Police sweep in Muslim region of Cameroon

Yaoundé (AFP) - A military clampdown is under way in northern Cameroon in the wake of the abortive coup earlier this month, according to travellers.

Roadblocks have been set up. Extensive police operations were also said to be under way in Douala, west of here, which is the economic capital of Cameroon and the country's main port. The sources said that arms had been discovered.

Remarks on Saturday by the Armed Forces Minister, Mr Gilbert Anze Tsoungui, and General Pierre Sengue, the Army chief, to the effect that the members of the Republican Guard who started the rebellion were all from the muslim north, backed by northern businessmen and former President Ahmadou Ahidjo, were a departure from earlier, more prudent statements.

On April 10, two days after the coup was crushed, President

Paul Biya, a southern Christian, denied that the attempt originated among people of any particular province or religion.

Mr Ahidjo, who resigned as President in November, 1982, but tried to cling on to power as head of the ruling party until the following August, has denied involvement. He was condemned to death last month in his absence, for alleged plotting.

However, a Western diplomat noted that the incidents - which resulted in the deaths of 70 people, according to official figures but several hundred in the opinion of reliable sources - had greatly harmed Cameroon.

For the first time in years blood has flowed in the streets of a country seen under President Ahidjo as a model of stability, and there are fears here that old regional and ethnic animosity will be revived.

Drought and dissent in Zimbabwe Euphoria gone with the rain

From Stephen Taylor
Harare

Zimbabwe enters its fifth year of independence today with every indication that it will be the most difficult yet. Prospects in almost every direction are gloomy. Rarely can the kind of euphoria that marked the first 18 months of nationhood have been so quickly and thoroughly dissipated.

At home the most pressing problem is how - indeed whether - the country will feed itself in the next year. The devastating southern African drought has left a deficit in the staple diet of more than half the national requirements. Acute hunger, if not starvation, faces the rural poor.

The economy is in a mess with inflation (30 per cent compared with 4 per cent at independence) and unemployment soaring and growth stagnant. More and more hopeful young Zimbabweans are being turned out by an ambitious education programme with less and less chance of a job, even one so menial as domestic servant to the dwindling white population.

White emigration continues at well over 1,000 a month, a rate damaging both to the economy, because of the loss of skills, and to the morale of those who remain. The white population has dropped from 225,000 at independence to probably fewer than 100,000. Few of those appear determined to stay indefinitely.

The festering sore of Matabeland and its half-baked

Nkomo book 'lies'

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, has accused Mr Joshua Nkomo, his leading opponent, of being unpatriotic, and described Mr Nkomo's autobiography as a pack of lies. "I have browsed through the book. Most of it is lies", Mr Mugabe told journalists.

Mr Nkomo is in London to launch his book, entitled *Nkomo - The Story of My Life*, to coincide with Zimbabwe's fourth anniversary of independence tomorrow.

Mr Mugabe said that by leaving the country at this time, Mr Nkomo, leader of the Zimbabwe African People's Union, showed he did not want to take part in the celebrations.

insurgency not only blights relations between the Shona-based Government and the Ndebele tribes (about 20 per cent of the population) but, because of the brutality of Government forces, has added to the stains on Zimbabwe's human rights record and may further affect Western aid.

Despite, or perhaps because of, their brutality the security forces have not gained the upper hand against the insurgents.

The internal picture would be bleak enough in a normal year, let alone one in which Mr Robert Mugabe's ruling Zanu (PF) Party seems determined to contest the first election since independence on a platform

which seeks to turn the country into a one-party state.

Mr Mugabe indicated in a recent interview that a simple majority vote in the election, which is supposed to be held before next February, would be a sufficient mandate to introduce one-party rule.

Even though it obtained a landslide 60 per cent of the black vote in 1980, Zanu (PF) seems concerned about the effect of the economic decline on its popularity, and opposition parties are being subjected to clear intimidation.

Of the four main political leaders who lined up against Mr Mugabe four years ago only one, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, Mr Ian Smith, will be spending the anniversary at liberty at home.

Another former Premier, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, has been in detention for almost six months without charge. The Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, once leader of Zanu, is in self-imposed exile in Britain because he says he fears similar treatment.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of Zanu, the main opposition party, is also in Britain, in a pointed piece of timing, for the launch of his autobiography this week, none of them would, anyway have been invited to attend today's festivities of rallies and football matches.

The regional perspective is scarcely brighter. South Africa's rapprochement with Angola and Mozambique have left Zimbabwe odd man out in the region. Leading article, page 15

Nazi doctor too ill to stand trial

Bonn (AP) - The district court here ruled that a former Nazi doctor, Richard Rühl, aged 66, is unfit to stand trial for performing deadly mustard gas experiments on concentration camp inmates.

Dr Rühl, who was sentenced to death in absentia by a French court in 1952, was found too ill to face trial on charges of being an accessory to the murder of four gypsies at the Nazi Weiler camp during the Second World War.

Doctors attending Dr Rühl, who worked at the Bonn health department until retiring in January, 1983, certified that he had suffered from nervous disorders, high blood pressure and apoplexy since 1974.

Naples gang chief seized

Paris (Reuters) - French police said that they had arrested Michele Zaza, a Neapolitan gangland leader, nicknamed "The Madman", who escaped from a Rome clinic last December. They also held another man suspected of links with the Mafia.

Zaza was sentenced to three and a half years in prison in January, 1983, for failing to obey an internal exile order, but was allowed to serve his sentence under house arrest in Italy because of a heart condition.

Atlantic record

Paris (AFP) - Patrick Morvan, aged 39, on his catamaran Jet Services, set a new transatlantic sailing record with a time of eight days 16 hours 36 minutes, arriving at Lizard Point, Cornwall before dawn yesterday. He beat fellow-Frenchman Marc Pajot's record of nine days 10 hours 6 minutes 34 seconds.

Barge ambushed

Manila (AP) - Communist guerrillas in the Philippines ambushed a barge filled with soldiers and raised a military camp in weekend violence that left at least 18 of the rebels and 10 soldiers dead.

Greeks jailed

Halki, Greece (AP) - A court on this Greek island sentenced two young Greeks to 13-year jail terms for the murder 16 months ago of a British tourist, David Leggett, 28, from Dartford, Kent.



Prince Charles: Beverley Hills gets the royal wave as Prince Andrew arrives for the start of a four-day Californian tour to raise funds for the British Olympic team.

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Israeli poll shows sharp decline in support for the Likud coalition

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

As Israel's election campaign gathers momentum, an opinion poll in yesterday's *Jerusalem Post* showed a substantial lead for the main opposition Labour Party, which scored 41 per cent compared with 28 per cent for the ruling right-wing Likud coalition.

The poll was by the respected Smith Research Centre, among 1,157 voters just before the strong showing by Mr Ariel Sharon, the former defence minister, in last Thursday's contest for the Likud leadership. Compared with the results of the last election, 1981, it showed a 4 per cent gain in popularity for Labour and 12 per cent decline for the government.

Although the results boosted Labour morale, they were being treated cautiously by observers, who noted that Labour had an early lead in opinion polls before both the 1977 and the 1981 elections, which it subsequently lost under its present leader, Mr Shimon Peres.

One new phenomenon noted

by the pollsters was the claim by 6 per cent of the sample that they would not vote on July 23. Most gave their reason as disappointment with all the political parties. A majority of the group had formerly supported the Likud, which originally came to power in 1977.

Another poll, published by the afternoon paper *Wediot Ahranot*, showed that in the opening stages of what many predict will be a harsh campaign, Labour was favoured in handling the economy, foreign affairs, social questions and ending the fighting in Lebanon, while the Likud, under the leadership of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, was preferred on security and the future of the occupied West Bank.

With many senior Likud politicians anxious that Mr Sharon's unexpectedly strong showing may alienate middle-of-the-road supporters, the coalition is looking for ways to exploit the popularity of the former prime minister, Mr Menachem Begin, who is in

self-imposed political exile at his home in West Jerusalem.

One suggestion is that Mr Begin should be given the number two slot on the party list, despite his inactivity and refusal to attend the Knesset even for crucial votes. At the same time, Likud's campaign committee is reviewing a plan that recordings of some of his speeches should be played at election meetings to rally the faithful, many of whom still refer to him as "Begin, Begin, king of Israel."

Military sources have denied suggestions by Israeli reporters and photographers that one of the four men who hijacked a bus last week was led from the vehicle with his hands bound after it had been stormed.

The sources said two of the four died during the operation, one died minutes after and a fourth, also badly wounded, died on the way to hospital. The bound man, who was photographed as a passenger mistaken for a hijacker



Bitter holiday: Armed Israeli border police well-wrapped against freezing weather in Jerusalem as security is tightened for both Passover and the Easter weekend.

Shellfire shatters settlement hopes

From Our Middle East Correspondent, Beirut

They were still talking about a settlement in Lebanon in Damascus yesterday. In Beirut, shellfire closed the only crossing point between the Christian and Muslim sectors of the city.

Since security in the Lebanese capital almost always deteriorates in exact proportion to the increase in political

optimism expressed by the country's leaders, it was perhaps to be expected.

No sooner had it been suggested that President Gemayel of Lebanon would at last be visiting Damascus than the seven artillery rounds exploded around the miserable stretch of earth-strewn boulevard that runs past the old classical museum in Beirut. The police who notionally control the road - Christian gendarmes at the eastern end, Muslim gendarmes at the western corner by the wreckage of the Barbir hospital - said that they could no longer guarantee the safety of anyone

Swapo disown blast that killed two American diplomats

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Investigations into the bomb explosion which killed two American diplomats in northern Namibia (Southwest Africa) on Sunday have so far failed to establish whether they were deliberately assassinated or the chance victims of an act of sabotage of a kind that has become common in the so-called "operational area".

The decision was Mr Denis Keogh, the temporary head of the US Liaison Office in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, and Lieutenant-Colonel Ken Crabtree, a career army officer from Fort Bragg, who had been assigned to Mr Keogh's staff.

A local black citizen, Mr Thomas Najambonde, was also killed, and four other people, one of them Mr Najambonde's child, were injured in the explosion which occurred in a petrol station on the edge of Oshakati, a town that has been turned into a big South African military base. It lies about 20 miles south of Namibia's northern border with Angola.

Oshakati is the main town of the Ovamboland region, the most populous area of the country, which together with southern Angola has been the main arena of the desultory 18-year conflict between South African forces occupying Namibia and black nationalist Swapo guerrillas fighting for its independence.

The bomb exploded when the two Americans pulled into the petrol station at 4.10 pm. That it should have exploded precisely at the moment of their arrival seems a remarkable coincidence if the chance theory is accepted. It is true, however, that garages have been the targets of Swapo saboteurs in the past, and this particular one is said to have been hit at least once before.

The South African Press agency quoted a Swapo spokesman in Zambia as denying responsibility and saying: "Swapo does not fight people who are not its enemies." The spokesman claimed it was "a calculated move" by South Africa to delay its withdrawal from southern Angola. Petoria has blamed Swapo.

The Johannesburg evening newspaper, *The Star*, quoted

"unofficial information" in Windhoek that the bomb had either been attached to, or thrown into, the station wagon in which the Americans were driving. But police spokesmen said they had no evidence to support this claim.

Mr Keogh and Lieutenant-Colonel Crabtree had gone to Oshakati for a briefing from South African Joint Monitoring Commission, which the US helped to set up at a meeting in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, last February to supervise the withdrawal of Pretoria's troops from southern Angola.

The US Liaison Office was established towards the end of February to assist the monitoring process, and its officials had previously made periodic visits to the Namibian side of the war zone without mishap. The JMC itself began work on March 1 at Cuvelai, more than 100 miles inside Angola.

It was originally intended that the JMC would move its headquarters south to the Namibian border in four stages over 30 days as the South Africans withdrew. Progress was delayed, however, by clashes between JMC patrols and Swapo units trying to get down into Namibia before the Angolan army resumed full control of the territory vacated.

Under the Lusaka accord, Angola, Swapo's erstwhile host, and protector, agreed to prevent the guerrillas from infiltrating Namibia once the South Africans had gone. A number of Angolan soldiers were killed in the fighting between the JMC and Swapo.

As a result of the delay, the JMC is only now completing the second stage of the withdrawal process to the town of Evale, about 60 miles inside Angola. South African officials say Swapo activity has decreased, but that heavy rains and clogging mud is causing logistical hold-ups.

Mr Herman Nickel, the US Ambassador in South Africa, said yesterday he hoped the tragic deaths of the diplomats would lead to "a redoubling of our efforts to put an end to a war that is nearly 20 years old". There was no question of closing the liaison office in Windhoek.

Singapore boosts its air power

By David Watts
Singapore

Singapore is strengthening its air force with new helicopters after an order for F16 fighters. The air force will get twenty-two Aerospatials. Super Pumas to carry troops and it has an option to buy another twelve to be used against ships and submarines as well as for search and rescue.

The first delivery of helicopters is expected early next year. The rest will be assembled in Singapore by a joint venture company set up with the French in 1977.

The new helicopters, capable of carrying Exocet missiles, will match the F16s which will be used with two Hawkeye command and control aircraft being supplied by the United States. This combination will give the Singapore Air Force a punch totally disproportionate to its size.

Britain has so far failed to take a slice of the air force's new orders.

Hawke asks US to return Matilda

Canberra (Reuters) - Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, has ordered an inquiry after hearing that an American firm has the United States copyright to Australia's best-loved song, "Waltzing Matilda".

Mr Hawke, who said last week that "Advance Australia Fair" would replace "God Save the Queen" as the country's national anthem, had asked lawyers to study ways of getting the copyright back in time for Australia's bicentenary in 1988.

Mr Hawke said jokingly on television last night that he would "ring up Ron (President Reagan) about it", a spokesman said that there would be no attempt to pressure the New York firm of Carl Fisher Inc to give up the copyright, which it had bought in the 1930s.

"Waltzing Matilda" came second behind "Advance Australia Fair" in a 1977 referendum for the national anthem. "God Save the Queen" came third.

Mitterrand heading for showdown with Marchais

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The decision by M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, to take in Friday's demonstration by steelworkers against the French Government's plans for restructuring the industry has finally provoked a head-on clash between the Socialists and their partners in government.

President Mitterrand has decided it is time to bring matters to a head and to force an explanation from the Communists as to their role in government. The Socialists are no longer willing to tolerate the Communists remaining in government while endlessly attacking it from outside.

In a radio interview on Sunday night, M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, said: "The Communists are getting a taste for differentiating themselves from the Government and for attacking the coherence of the majority."

clarification (of their position) must take place and will take place."

M Mauroy said that although he did not consider the Communist leader's decision to take part in the march as of major importance, he nevertheless felt it was symptomatic of the Communist Party's overall attitude over the past three or four months, with its "systematic calling into question of government policies".

He had begun talks with President Mitterrand on the subject, after M Mitterrand's warning at his press conference last week that the time had come "to clarify matters".

Like M Mitterrand, M Mauroy declined to say what form the "clarification" would take.

He made it clear, however, that he hoped the Communists would remain in government. They have always insisted that they have no intention of quitting.

M Mauroy went on to pay tribute to the four Communist ministers. "They have distinguished themselves by their good work. I consider that they have supported the Government with a constancy, loyalty and fidelity which I salute."

M Mauroy, who has always been thought of as one of the Communists' chief allies in the Government, defended the Government's economic policy. It was a good policy, which would produce results.

In another radio interview, M Jean-Pierre Chevènement, former industry minister and leader of the left-wing Ceres group within the Socialist Party, also criticized M Marchais's role in the steel demonstration. He described it as regrettable, but went on to make his own trenchant criticisms of government policy.

Economic policies "resemble a little too closely the policies of the 1930s," he said, while M Marchais "was advocating policies of the 1950s."

What was needed was a policy of economic growth to create new jobs. He also repeated a much-criticized call for a further devaluation of the franc.

In a newspaper interview yesterday, M Lionel Jospin, first secretary of the Socialist Party, said that the Socialists, with their absolute majority in Parliament, could govern on their own, but that was not desirable.

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FASHION

Making a formal introduction

Texture is the new trend for the lightweight suit. The return to tailoring was an important part of Browns' menswear show, held in the shop last week to show off their latest lines.

Culture Shock is the British star in a store usually known for its international names. The rough weave and textured suits, all impeccably tailored and worn with pagan print shirts, suggest a new and formal feel for menswear. Culture Shock's Japanese designer, Koji Tatsuno, working in the back streets of London's W11, has fused the surface and textural interest from Japan with traditional English tailoring in a way that looks fresh and strong.

The Japanese Matsuda also have an interesting way with fabric, especially their loose-line suits with waistbands turned over to show a pastiche of tailor's tucking. Giorgio Armani, maestro of Italian spiv tailoring, is also using texture as well as line to make the impact in his summer-weight slub and flecked weave suits.

Last year's avant garde is soon swallowed up in fashion's ravenous maw. The transparent nylon shirt was the nearest thing to a culture shock in Comme des Garçons Hommes suits and separates, generously cut in pin-striped cotton and linen.

Christopher Turling of Browns says that the fabric is now making the statement in many of the men's collections, with unbleached linen the favourite. Katharine Hammett, who cut the flax of the iron for an entire generation, still favours crumpled cotton, wistfully used with heavy cotton T-shirts and baggy pants as a send-up of ship-shape sailor style.

With tailoring coming up the charts and big, comfy cottons its flip side, the more traditional casual separates are caught uncertainly in between. Perry Ellis's neat cricketer sweaters and Missoni's seafaring knits looked tame beside Body Map's holder textured knits in big shapes and crunchy silences.

Menswear today - like women's clothes - needs to be



designed either to the body line or against it. Stevie Stewart and David Holah of Body Map capture perfectly the sexy new athleticism, with their cotton sweat shorts and vest tops cropped at an angle across one shoulder and made graphically in black and white.

On exactly the same international underground is New York's Stephen Sprouse, who takes rock images from the Sixties, along with graffiti and

psychedelic colours, and makes them into a punchy modern combination. The Japanese drained colour from fashion; Sprouse puts it back with a hot pink oversized jacket. But he can also work with texture and knows how to tailor a big sporty blouson with a graphic motif on its back.

The variety of different fashion images at the Browns show - from Mugler's iridescent mohair Ted's suit to Montana's

mountainous leather jackets - suggests that there is something for all. It is interesting to see that, among these diverse looks, the suit - with texture as its added dimension - looks so fresh and right.

Street-wise young men have been the first to endorse the comeback of the suit. For them, the blouson jacket and casual trousers are just regular clothes and the sharp suit the new trend.

The tactile suit. Left: bold textured weave suit with dramatic patterned lining £395, primitive patterned round collared cotton shirt £90. By Koji Tatsuno of Culture Shock. The eastern finish. Centre: black and grey striped heavy cotton jacket with shawl collar £275, trousers with turnover ticking waistband £170, cream shirt £50, all by Matsuda of Japan. Slick Italian tailoring. Right: Slub linen suit £450, woven cotton shirt, geometric patterned tie and leather shoes, all by Giorgio Armani. All clothes from Browns, 23 South Molton Street W1. Photographs by SURESH KARADIA.

BEAUTY REPORT

The eye is the current focus of the fashionable face. The beauty houses are all emphasising eyes this spring, with new products designed to bring the attention back to the "windows" of the face.

Colour is the key to eye make-up with a return to the idea of one simple shadow, although the duo packs remain popular. There are 22 different shades in Boots 17 collection, with the accent towards the public's favourite blues, and including a pink-tinged lilac.

A warm rose pink used with

leaf green is the lead colour

from Yves Saint Laurent

Beauté; the foliage-fresh eye is

completed by a vivid emerald

green mascara.

The lavish lash is the message

from the Body Shop. Their new

natural-based mascara (in black

or dark brown) is a blend of

three different waxes from a

honey bee to a Brazilian palm.

Maxi major on colour with

Maxi-lash mascara in Brilliant

Blue, lilac or jade green - each

has a toning kohl pencil.

The Eye Styler is a new

combination stick of shadow

and liner from Yves Rocher. It

twists up like a pencil but is soft

enough to blend in the colours,

which come in eight pearly

shades including a golden pink,

a clear green and a rich purple.

Three different pencils draw

in the eye in the Lancome

collection. Newest is Le Crayon

Sourcil, with a brush at one

end of the pencil designed to

define the brows. Le Crayon

Kohl comes in ten colours,

including a new electric blue

and a bright white. La Craie

is a powder shadow in pencil

form to encourage you to draw

on shadow like a picture.

The harsh fluorescent colours

of this season's fashion have

found a more subtle echo in the

newest eye colours. Blues and

mauves are the theme of

Orlane's Couleurs Surrealistes,

which include a quad pan of

powder shadows with a brilliant

luchsia pink set against leaf

green and dull silver.

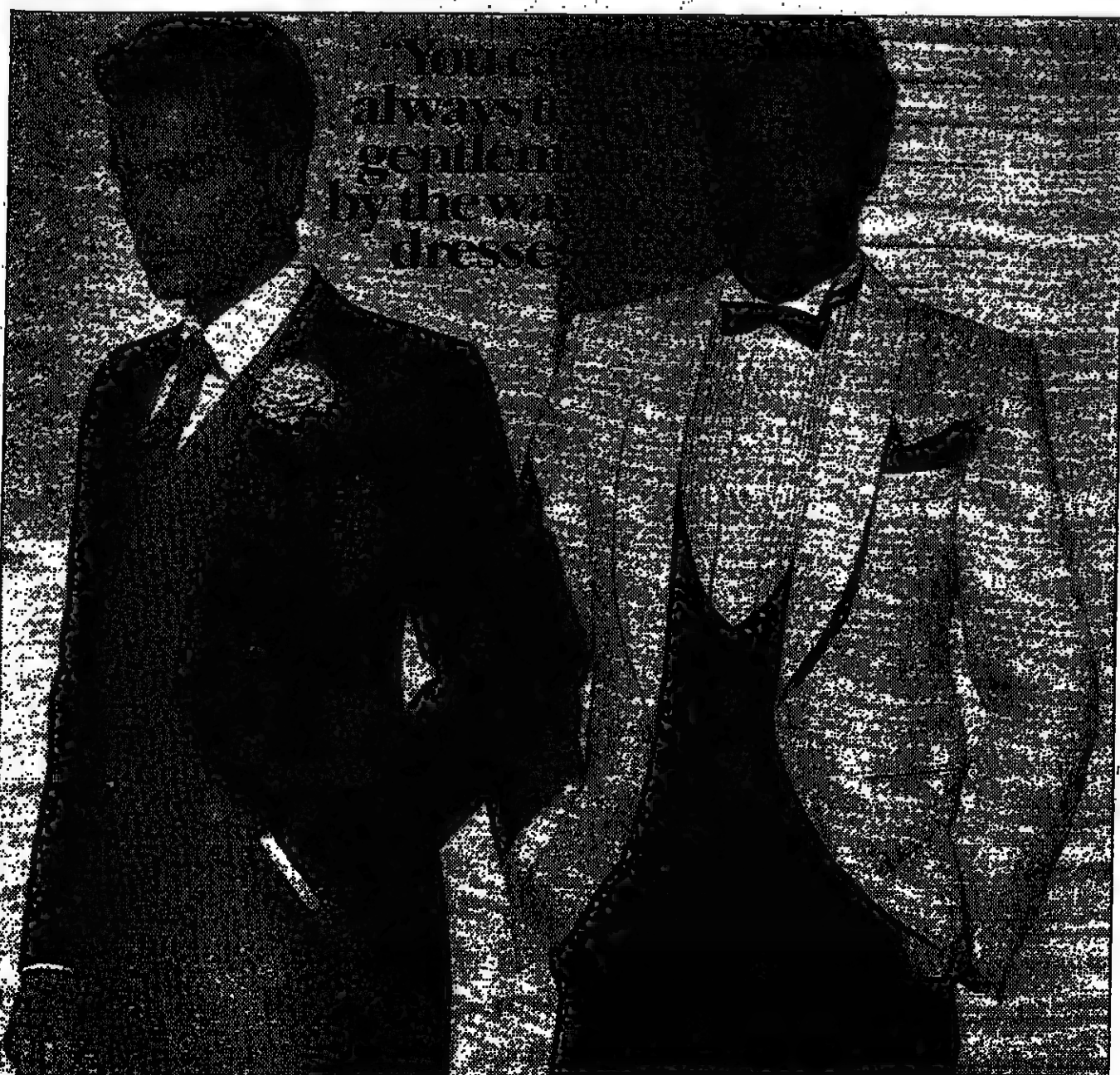
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SPECTRUM

What a difference a holiday makes

moreover...
Miles Kington

Chattering up the rotorway

(Story so far. *Instant Sunshine*, a nervous cabaret group, are flying in a helicopter from Amsterdam to Leicester in an attempt to play two jobs in the same night. Miles Kington, their bass player, is taking notes in the dark.)

The first thing that impresses you on a night-time helicopter flight over England is how much you can see - every little gas-lit cottage, every car on dipped headlights, is a tiny jewel in the display case below you. On a flight of more than 70 miles we never rose above 2,000 feet, or half a mile, so that you always have that intimacy with the landscape which in planes you get only at take-off and landing.

To begin with, it's sheer magic. You gaze at a train inching through the velvet dark, like a glowing caterpillar in the jungle. You spot an orange-lit Roman road going as straight as a genealogical line into the distance, hiccoughing now and again for accidents of birth. But after a while you get used to the fact that, for example, places look bigger at night than by day. At least, we all do except Alan.

"What's that huge city on the right?" he shouts at Peter in front. Peter asks Bob, the pilot. Bob takes off his Sony walkman and answers. Peter turns back to us and says: "Tring".

Once you get used to the magic, it's still half-magic, like those dreams in which you float disembodied across the nightscapes of your choice. This is because, although a lot of England is lit up with orange pin-pricks, a great deal more is totally dark and complete mystery. Fields. Woods. Hills. Houses which haven't paid their light bills. Bits of Milton Keynes which are still undeveloped. Mystery. In fact.

"What's that huge city ahead of us?" shouts Alan at Peter. Peter asks Bob. Bob gets out a map and peers at it with a torch. Bob says something to Peter. Peter turns and says: "Towcester".

"There's the M1", says David, pointing at a line coming up at us at half past five. And sure enough, there is a procession of self-important dots travelling at about 82 mph, hoping that the fuzz are not about. We ourselves are travelling at 115 mph, which is the fastest you can do with four musicians, a pilot and two guitars. You can go faster, says Bob, but only if you go into a dive.

He also says that visibility is not particularly good tonight. It's limited to four miles. Normally you can see Birmingham from here, which is 40 miles away. For this relief, much thanks.

"What's that huge city ahead?" shouts Alan.

It's Lutterworth. At night it looks like a grand complex of orange words, cardiovascular passages and unidentified fingerprints. By day no doubt it would be a town of one bistro, a health food shop and a lone branch library. I wonder if Lutterworth realizes just how impressive it looks at night, from 1,500 feet.

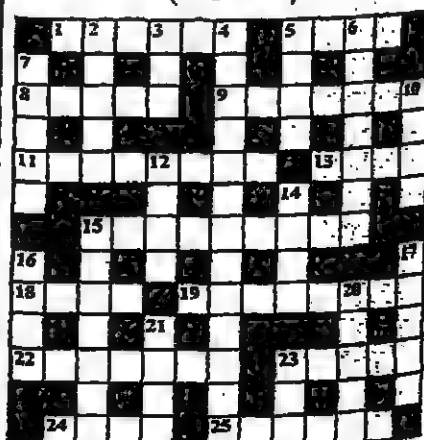
We have dropped to 1,500 feet because Bob has spotted Leicester ahead. Yes, using no more than a torch, a map, a compass and, for all I know, an IBM computer, he has sorted out Leicester airport from all the other fields in England, and now we are drifting into a line of blue light until we are only 10 feet above tarmac. We turn sharp right. We turn sharp right again. We stop and let the rotors come to a halt.

There are two female doctors waiting for us, to drive us in to the Grand Hotel in Leicester where we are due to provide the cabaret for the Royal College of General Practitioners. It must have been a desperately dull wait at Leicester's deserted terminal building.

"Not at all", they giggle. "It's quite a lively scene at the bar - the aero club seem to have got things organized pretty well."

That's perhaps the only thing wrong with internal helicopter flights. No drink trolley. Otherwise, they are pretty near perfect as entertainment goes.

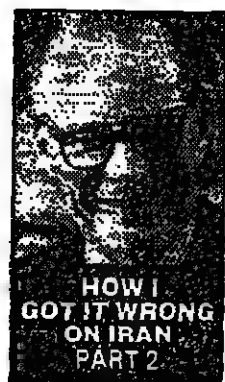
CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 320)



- ACROSS**
- 1 Wandering holy man (6)
 - 3 London underground (4)
 - 5 Unpleasantly pungent (5)
 - 7 Deadlock (7)
 - 9 Mud splash (8)
 - 11 Hindu philosopher (4)
 - 13 Concentrated (9)
 - 15 Actor's part (4)
 - 17 Marks of disgrace (3)
 - 19 Smallest flute (7)
 - 21 Indian male address (5)
 - 23 Render unconscious (4)
 - 25 Cement wall rendering (6)
- DOWN**
- 2 Fourth month (5)
 - 4 Carried out (3)
 - 6 World games body (6, 7)
 - 8 Magnetic strip record (4)
 - 10 Made to order (7)
 - 12 Punishment strip (5)
 - 14 Discharge (4)
 - 16 British art gallery (4)
 - 18 Vitality (4)
 - 20 Illegal (7)
 - 22 Venomous tree snake (5)
 - 24 Specialized (3)
 - 26 Low French coin (3)

SOLUTION TO No 319

ACROSS: 1 Silicon chip 9 Infanta 10 Tusk
11 May 13 Coxa 16 Fell 17 Xyster 18 Nole
20 TGVU 21 Gaucho 22 Trek 23 Ming 25 Bet
28 Utra 29 Equator 30 Reading
DOWN: 1 Infanta 4 Opera 5 City 6 Teabag
7 Misconstrue 8 Skulduggery 12 Agency 14 Aor
15 Estate 19 Theatre 20 Tom 24 Latus 25 Band
26 Tom 27 Full



HOW I GOT IT WRONG ON IRAN PART 2

The liberalization policy was in ruins. In the summer of 1978, while the British ambassador, Sir Anthony Parsons, was back home on leave, the Shah's personal position too came under

serious pressure for the first time. In the second extract from his forthcoming memoirs Sir Anthony recalls his tense meetings with the Shah as the final days of Pahlavi rule approached

I was due to go on home leave for three and a half months towards the end of May, having not had a chance to escape from the pressures of Iran for over two years. I gave a great deal of thought to the situation in the country before taking this long break.

In a nutshell, the Shah had lost the initiative and his liberalization policy, which amounted to a tactic without an overall strategy, was merely whetting appetites for more.

But I still did not believe that there was a serious risk of the Shah being overthrown. He had vast experience, the armed forces remained loyal, and he had lived through more difficult periods over the past thirty-seven years. He would continue his policy of liberalization, confident that he could clamp down again without difficulty if need be. If it came to a clamp-down the armed forces would do their duty as they did in 1963 when the tribal khans and the religious leaders raised the standard of revolt against land reform. Furthermore the opposition was still disunited. Students, professionals, bazaaris and mullahs each had different sets of grievances and there was no sign of coalescence. It was not so much, as I saw it, that the regime was in danger, rather that the car had bogged down in soft ground and it was difficult to see how it could pick up speed again. I was still prepared to put my money on the Pahlavis, but I left for England in a far less confident state of mind than when I had last gone on home leave two and a half years previously.

When I returned to Tehran in early September, it was glaringly obvious that there had been a qualitative change for the worse.

Shariat-Madari and the other ayatollahs of Qom and Mashhad were preaching the restoration of the 1906 constitution and the limitation of the Shah's powers; the Tehran mullahs were divided. But no one was prepared to call for calm and moderation for fear of being outflanked by the implacable and uncompromising Khomeini. The troubles got worse. On August 12th martial law was proclaimed in Isfahan and the Shah began to take palliative measures. He announced the total freezing of the press and speech and that new elections would take place in 1979. No one listened.

On September 16th I had my first private audience with the Shah after my return to Tehran. I was horrified by the change in his appearance and manner. He looked shrunken; his face was yellow and he moved slowly. He seemed exhausted and drained of spirit. But he was ready to discuss the internal crisis without reserve or inhibition and gave me the unprecedented impression that he would welcome my personal view. He even asked at one point if we could influence the moderate mullahs into a more tractable frame of mind. I replied that, because of his suspicions of us, I and my immediate predecessors had avoided all contact with the religious classes. He must know that, and it was no use his expecting us now to do something which, if we had done it before, would have wrecked our efforts to build a good working relationship with him. The Shah smiled and accepted my point. He said that he was still determined to continue with liberalization. He saw the present troubles, serious as they were, as part of a transitional period.

The Shah then asked plaintively why it was that the masses had turned against him after all that he had done for them. I replied that, in my view, there were many causes. The massive influx into the cities had produced a rootless and discontented proletariat. Many of them were engaged in construction work. They spent their days building houses for the rich and returned at night to shanties or even to holes in the ground lined with plastic. Crass materialism at all levels had led to insecurity when the good life had not arrived. It was no wonder in such circumstances that the people had turned to their traditional leaders, the mullahs who had always opposed the Shah. There was a yawning gulf of confidence between the government

and the people. Iran had become a land of unfulfilled promises. I was having the same trouble with British firms. If I tried to interest them in a project, they were inclined to say that they had heard it all before - if they made the effort there would be a lot of talk and no action. The people of Iran felt the same way. As regards the opposition, I believed that Khomeini was implacable, and that nothing but the removal of the Shah would satisfy him. I was disposed to think the same of the National Front who could not have forgotten how the Shah had treated them after the fall of Mossadegh.

The Shah did not dissent from this analysis. At the end of our audience he asked me whether the British Government still supported him. He hoped that we realised that any other regime in Iran would be worse from our point of view. I gave him the necessary assurance, pointing to a message which I had just delivered from the Prime Minister. He could take it from me that we were not hedging our bets, nor were we seeking reinsurance with any of the opposition elements. He seemed satisfied.

I saw the Shah again less than a week later. He looked fitter and was more alert. He was anxious to discuss the situation in detail - we talked for the best part of two hours - and to hear my views. He was worried that the Americans might be plotting with the opposition - he was of course expressing similar worries to my American colleague about British plotting - and wanted reassurance. I gave it. I emphasized that we were in the closest touch with the Americans in Tehran, London and Washington and that he could rest assured that there was complete unity of views between us. I went on to say that I even doubted whether the Soviet Union was actively supporting the movement to overthrow the regime. They would know that chaos would follow and my assessment was that they would prefer to have an orderly Iran under the Shah on their long southern border than an unpredictable Iran under whatever regime might replace him. My guess was therefore that, although they probably could not resist low-level meddling (for example by the provision of money to extreme left-wing groups), they were not active proponents of revolution in Iran. In my judgment, the troubles were caused by genuine and widespread internal discontent. The remedies were in the hands of the Shah and his government, not in searching for the hidden hands of foreigners. Emphasizing, as I always did in these conversations, that I was speaking personally as someone who knew him well and not on instructions from London, I said that there must be free elections. The only alternatives were his overthrow or savage military repression.

Between September and the end of the year the situation deteriorated rapidly. Ayatollah Khomeini and his allies organized themselves in Paris. Rioting and violence spread. The change to a military government was to no avail. The Shah decided he had no alternative but to leave his country.

I called on the Shah to say goodbye on January 8th. I found him calm and detached, talking about events as though they no longer had relevance to him in person. It was for me a profoundly emotional experience. I had come to know the Shah well over the previous five years and we had



Tehran, November 1978: the Shah burns in effigy as students riot

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the Pride and the Fall by Sir Anthony Parsons is published by Jonathan Cape on April 26th, price £8.95.

they had at last rebelled under the leadership of their traditional authorities, the religious classes. It was interesting that the same forces which had humbled Nasraddin Shah in 1892 when he had awarded a tobacco concession to a foreign firm, and had prevailed over Muzafferiddin Shah in 1906 over the constitution, had combined to bring down Mohammed Reza Shah - the mullahs, the bazaar and the intelligentsia. I had never admired the Iranian people as much as I had done in the past few months. Their courage, discipline and devotion to the cause of overthrowing the monarchy had been amazing; if only he had been able to mobilize those qualities in his pursuit of the Great Civilization... The Shah agreed about the performance of his people but rejected my analogies with his Qajar predecessor, "I have done more for Iran than any Shah for 2,000 years; you cannot compare me to those people".

He saw me to the door with his usual courtesy and I wished him luck. I never saw him again.

Sir Anthony with Dick Helms the US ambassador in Tehran. "The Shah was worried that the Americans might be plotting with the opposition and wanted reassurance. I gave it."

the Pride and the Fall by Sir Anthony Parsons is published by Jonathan Cape on April 26th, price £8.95.

Tomorrow
The painful lessons

Tomorrow
The painful lessons



Ben would like to say a quick thank-you

Ben is being cared for in one of the special centres for mentally handicapped children Barnardo's have throughout the country. He has been there for half of his life and even though he is nearly twelve his speech is comparable to an infant's. But year by year a steady improvement is obvious. He may never be able to speak perfectly but with proper care his ability to communicate, as well as other talents he may have, will be encouraged and developed to a greater extent than perhaps believed possible.

Barnardo's work, however, encompasses much more than caring for and teaching children like Ben. We run day care centres, fostering and adoption schemes and community projects throughout the country. Unfortunately the costs involved are tremendous. You can help by sending a donation to Dr Barnardo's, or by remembering us in your will in the form of a legacy. If you require further information please write. For those who already help us may we express our gratitude and on behalf of Ben say thank you.



Dr Barnardo's, 153 Barnardo House, Tanners Lane, Barking, Essex IG6 1QG

THE TIMES DIARY

Kelly's aye

Glasgow's Labour Lord Provost Michael Kelly, was accused yesterday of "subverting the trade union ethos" to further his career. The claim, by a Glasgow unionist, follows Dr Kelly's application to join the National Union of Journalists - a condition laid down by Scottish Television, a closed shop, which has offered him a job as a presenter when he defies his Provost's robes on May 2.

At the moment, however, Dr Kelly is an economics lecturer at Strathclyde University, and according to NUJ rules only people making at least 60 per cent of their earnings from journalism are eligible for membership. Despite this, he is almost certain to be accepted when his application comes before the West of Scotland freelance branch tonight. "I can't see any problem," says the branch chairman, Joe Campbell, who is proposing him.

"Dr Kelly is a personality. He's done a lot for Glasgow," Campbell should know, since there can be few closer to him. Campbell lives at 48 Aytoun Road; Dr Kelly at No 50.

Poster protest



Tribune fumed at the above Labour Party poster for the local council elections on May 3. "It is the sort of unthinking sexism which could only have been produced by a committee of middle-aged men," it said. But the poster was the work of a young female cartoonist who was asked to represent threatened government services, it says. Tribune, if thinking in stereotypes is prejudiced, aren't your comments on "middle-aged men" both sexist and sexist?

Black tea

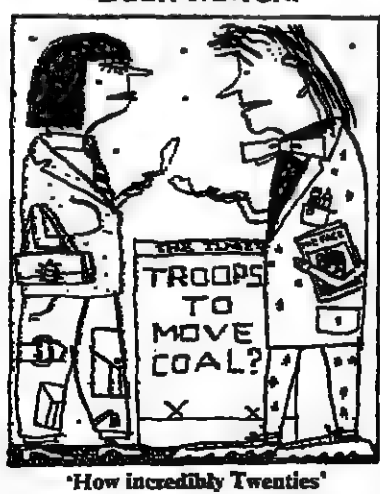
Brownie solidarity has been declared by the pack in Chigwell, Essex. They have refused to take part in National Tea-Making Fortnight because they consider pickers in Sri Lanka's plantations underpaid. Their Brown Owl says that although Brooke Bond made a £37m profit last year, the workers get a 40p daily pittance.

National affront

This weekend brought a rare opening to a speech by Paul Boateng, the anti-racist campaigner. "Dear friends of the National Front..." he began. A quick double-take, and he then correctly addressed his audience as "Dear friends of the National Council for Civil Liberties", whose annual meeting that day had been much exercised by facts.

House-trained?

Under the heading "Fighting for peace", the West Essex Gazette reported that "a noise survey test has been carried out near the M25 Bell Common, Epping, after complaints by nearby residents. This follows a visit by Epping Forest MP Sir John Biggs-Davison to residents in the Wansey Hill area."



Hart's helper

When Gary Hart asked his old friend Chris Patten, Northern Ireland under-secretary, to campaign in *Mitrois* last month, Patten refused because "as a minister, I cannot, alas, wear a campaign button." Hart's other British buddy, David Steel, clearly sees no such problem for Liberal leaders. Today he leaves to join the increasingly lacklustre Democrat on the North Carolina, Texas and Tennessee trail. Yesterday Steel's secretary said he was presiding over court at Edinburgh University as rector. This was news to Edinburgh, where it was a public holiday. It turned out that Steel was at home, where his wife Judy would not put him on the line. It didn't surprise me a few weeks ago I had a farcical interview with him relayed by his secretary. I asked, as a fellow Watsonian, if he had tied some bow to the railings during his school days. No, came the reply. Clearly you have to be the soft porn magazine, *Penthouse*, before Steel will talk in person.

Survival through concession

James R. Schlesinger, former US Defence Secretary, continues our series on Nato's 35th anniversary with a call for a greater awareness on each side of the Atlantic of the other's susceptibilities

A tone of sourness and doubt now characterizes transatlantic relations. Although relations at a government level apparently remain excellent, storm signals are rightly being hoisted. Are the strains in the relationship anything new? If one recalls the collapse of the European Defence Community, Dulles's "agonizing reappraisal" of the Skybolt controversy, De Gaulle's expulsion of Nato from French soil, or the Mansfield amendment, one might readily infer that transatlantic relations are normally tempestuous and complacently conclude that the current strains be disregarded.

Is there now a difference? In a word, yes. If we are wise, we shall pay attention. For this difference is qualitative: beneath the historic pattern of tempestuous disruption there is now a spreading of mutual disenchantment. At base, this disenchantment reflects a lessened conviction on both sides of the Atlantic that the alliance well serves - or serves as well as in the past - the interests of its major participants, European and American. This attitude is widespread in the rising generation, but it is by no means confined to youth.

How could such doubts arise? In a sense the mutual advantages provided by Nato are no less than they ever were. The preservation of a free and independent Western Europe - the centrepiece of US foreign policy since the Second World War - is, if anything, more important now than it was then, in light of the recovery and expansion of the European economies. For the Europeans, American support and protection, initially put forward as a unilateral guarantee, continues under somewhat altered circumstances as an indispensable element for preserving political independence.

At base, the change of attitude reflects a substantial alteration in the military balance of power in Soviet favour. In the past, America's nuclear might implied something close to absolute protection. Today, military deterrence must rest on something more subtle than deterrence of nuclear superiority but also, therefore, more ambiguous and even equivocal.

American blunders, which in the past might have been dismissed as idiosyncrasies of an all-powerful protector, have now understandably become a source of worry and resentment. For the Americans, the protection of Europe implies strategic risks that now appear to be quite real, rather than hypothetical as in the past. That has led, instinctively if not logically, to the feeling that Europe was somehow obliged to provide steady support for US policies in the Third World countries.

These changed attitudes have been reinforced by other, almost ancillary, developments. On the European side, the shifting power balance has been accompanied by some disconcerting discoveries about the US: the weaknesses of the American Constitution (stemming from the separation of powers), the odd procedures by which we select our presidents, and the consequent zig-zags of American foreign policy. The power and unpredictability of Congress was discovered during the Ford presidency. It was followed by what were perceived to be the erratic weaknesses of the Carter presidency.

and the erratic strengths of the Reagan presidency.

What Europeans want to see in American foreign policy is steadiness and continuity. These latter-day discoveries have led to European doubts regarding the necessary wisdom of this policy, in a period in which US military strength, while still substantial, is relatively less formidable than previously.

In the past quarter of a century, international tensions have increasingly shifted from Europe, which is covered by the alliance, to Third World countries, which are not. For a generation, Europe has enjoyed unmatched peace and stability, in large degree a consequence of the alliance. None the less, Europeans, and perhaps most notably the West Germans, are in no mood to see the fruits of détente in Europe disturbed. They fear that tensions between the US and the Soviet Union in the Third World will spill back into Europe to disrupt the *modus vivendi* and they have no desire to join in American actions - or what they may consider to be American adventures - in the Third World.

Yet many Americans have come to expect, if not to demand, unquestioning European support in Third World controversies - South-East Asia, the Middle East, Central America, the Caribbean. The spotlight of such support was the source of some disenchantment after Afghanistan and even more so at present in Central America. This has led to an invidious infatuation with the Pacific Basin and with our more docile allies and dependants.

These political differences have been exacerbated by differences regarding the alliance's military strategy. Since the early 1960s, Americans have regularly pressed their European partners to develop a fully-fledged conventional deterrent. Such pressures have been regularly resisted, initially on doctrinal lines but more recently on straight budgetary lines. In general, Europeans have regarded the Soviet military threat as far less menacing than have the Americans, and have consequently felt a much lesser need to create the appropriate military counters to Soviet conventional strength.

No doubt this difference stems from internal political constraints as well as differences over the Soviet menace. None the less, Americans have been astonished and disillusioned to discover that the US appears to be more concerned that the Europeans about the security of Western Europe.

To these very real transatlantic differences have been added some rather superficial but nevertheless irritating problems. I pass over differences about economic policy which, however important, remain peripheral to the central issue of security. On the European side, there is a good deal of unnecessary and unproductive sniping at the Americans. The latest manifestation is a pretence to be a Europe equidistant from the two superpowers and no longer the target of Soviet aspirations.

Another dangerous irrelevancy is to play the game of hypotheticals: would the Americans exchange New York for Paris or Savannah for Hamburg? Given the alliance's nuclear strategy, this is at best an over-simplification. But far more importantly, even in its simple form it overlooks the fundamental reality of nuclear deterrence. While Europeans would no doubt like to have 100 per cent confidence in the American nuclear response, even a much lower estimate of the likelihood of an American nuclear response will continue to have the appropriate deterrent effect where it is needed, in the eyes of Soviet leaders. No more than with needless sniping should the alliance tear itself apart with interesting but unresolvable hypothetical questions.

So much for the nature and causes of Nato's discontents. The alliance is troubled. Unless the present fissures are carefully closed, the alliance could lead to disintegration or divorce. Ignoring these strains would be unwise. All too frequently old Atlantic buffs (including myself) seem to believe that simply singing the litany of the 1950s will somehow be sufficient to overcome present difficulties.

I believe not only that the goals of the alliance are as important, if not more important, than ever but also that the psychological resources are available to ensure that Nato continues to measure up to its challenge. Much of the remedy lies in those on both sides of the Atlantic getting a better grip on reality and giving up unrealistic expectations. Although the largest requirements for adjustment rest on the Americans, Europe must also recognize some fundamental realities.

The Americans must realize that what has been true in the past is still true today: the preservation of a free Western Europe remains the major United States foreign-policy objective. There continues to be a risk that the Americans, in a spirit of disenchantment, will throw the baby out with the bath water. While the proclivity for global unilateralism and for brushing off the views of wayward allies is less strong than at the outset of the Reagan administration, it is no doubt still there. Along that path lies folly. The preservation of a free Europe remains immensely important to the US, for reasons as much political and aesthetic as those of military security. Fidelity within the alliance cannot and need not be global.

Americans must therefore be prepared to accept a differential détente. They would be ill-advised to insist that Europe impose political sanctions on the Soviets, with damage to the present *modus vivendi*, in order to discipline them for misbehaviour in the Third World. Avoiding unnecessary tension in Europe remains a political imperative.

Americans must also understand

Roger Scruton Bound - hand, foot and wallet

There is no force more dynamic, more progressive, more avid for improvements than the force of human folly. Let he should forget this, a teacher must repeatedly acquaint himself with books that he would rather eat than read. The other day, therefore, I shut myself away with a pile of feminist literature, and for some time my mind was numbed by what must be the most boring form of collective paranoia since Mussolini. Overcome at last, I fell into a deep slumber, and began to dream.

I seemed to be in a London club, in a room heavy with tobacco smoke. All round me were smart City gentlemen. They had been drinking, and their voices rang out in a cheerful, boisterous cacophony. One voice, however, thinner, higher, but more strident than the rest, made itself heard above the chorus. It belonged to a young man who wore a necktie in place of a tie and who was trying to win attention. Underdressed by the indifference of his neighbours, he raised his voice ever more loudly until, taking advantage of a lull, he jumped from his chair, waved his arms, and commanded the room in the name of justice to be silent. With a murmur of acquiescence, his astonished companions sank back in their chairs.

"Men," he cried, "I address you as members of the largest oppressed class in the history of the world, victims of centuries of exploitation. The time has come to rise up against your oppressor. The time has come to rid yourself of your mistress, woman. A few hands were raised in protest, but were at once turned towards the nearest glass of port.

"Look at yourselves: look at the devastation wrought in you by patriarchy, society. Your work, your talents, your energies - all these are removed from you. For the sake of her and her children, your days must be sacrificed to humiliating toil. To provide her with 'home comforts, pleasures, you must renounce all hope for a life of your own. By day you belong to her, returning always in defeat from your little experiments in freedom to the prison that she has built from the product of your labour.

"Under patriarchal order, men are oppressed in their very psychology, subject to a jealousy more terrible than any force of arms. They must bend their projects, their actions, and their thoughts in the direction imposed upon them by woman. In every act they are subject to woman's morality, which scores all tiny liberties, and commands obedience to the law of home. Between the home where she commands you, and the work towards which she compels you, only a few little crevices of freedom remain, and these too are threatened. Your lunches, your breaks,

Robin Cook Just a moderate little trot

This is the week of recess. The heavy morose is turned in the door of the Commons; the only motion is the silent flicker of the digital clock that governs our sitting hours.

All members welcome the opportunity to lay down arms and make peace, if not with the other side, at any rate with our own neglected families.

All have their own favourite formula for this delicate but necessary task. Some decamp abroad in the hope that linguistic isolation will promote group cohesion. Others seek to ingratiate themselves by token stabs at the backlog of household repairs. Myself? I took an animated and ecstatic family to Cheltenham to cheer John Frum home in the Jockey championship and to Badminton to gaze in rapt admiration as Lucinda Green won yet again.

I am conscious that a Labour MP is not expected to spend his recess in such frank dissipation in the pleasures of the horse - a vulgar prejudice I myself shared until a few years ago when I stumbled on to their delights by chance.

The other month I was kicking my heels with a Tory MP in a greenhouse awaiting the summons to join against each other before the television cameras. As we waited there appeared on the monitor a clip of King Edward's funeral with half the politicians in the Empire doing a collective trot behind the cortege. My sparring partner invited me to share his relief that such an accomplishment was no longer expected of us and was visibly perplexed when I murmured diffidently that I could possibly manage that. We left for the studio, wondering at the upwardly mobile habits of the PLP and I reflecting on the social revolution that has produced a new intake of Tory MPs who cannot tell their nunnahs from their martingale.

There is ample historic authority for socialists to express a respectable interest in the horse. As I can testify having taken retrospectively the precaution of checking out the labour movement are sprinkled with notorious hippophiles such as Cunningham-Graham who managed to combine a commitment to radicalism with a passion for the horse.

There is also a pressing need for a party aspiring to mass support to come to terms with new mass sport. On any Saturday afternoon more people across Britain will mount a horse for fun than will turn out to attend a football match. More spectators fathomed the roads of Avon to find Badminton this weekend than went through the turnstiles at most cup finals, and those of us habituated to CND mass rallies found the jostling of the throng in procession round the course reassuringly familiar. There are now more horses in Britain than at the time of King Edward's funeral, sustaining one of the fastest growing family sports measured both by participants and by spectators.

Not mind you, that I am claiming an affinity with the competitors at Badminton based on a common bond of sportsmanship. As riders, Lucinda Green and I have in common only the fact that the beast beneath us runs on four legs (and I have ridden stable mules when even that was in doubt).

No, my sphere of action is the glorious, happy, non-competitive world of course riding. I have spent many hours and the equivalent of several election deposits trying to acquire knowledge above this station in the horse world. The effort has been a failure, viewed as an attempt to make a horseman out of me, but has been good for my soul. There is no surer way to mortify pride or to humble ambition to ride in rings round a young girl shouting you have paid by the hour to shout at you that your transitions are terrible, your seat a disgrace, and she doesn't know why she is wasting her time on you when she could be mucking out the stalls. I would recommend it as a universal prescription for my profession, which is inclined to skimp on humility.

The sum of the wisdom I have sucked from these bouts of ritualized abuse is that the pedal power is provided by the lower leg and the reins, but by burrowing your pelvis into the saddle. The reins, my instructresses agree mysteriously, are there only to provide the horse with something to chew on.

This admittedly rudimentary knowledge has been sufficient to provide the passport to an enchanted country of bridle paths, stable fields and open moor across which I have cantered, jumped and, yes, fallen. I know of no surer way of fostering the family bonds than the sheer exhilaration of thundering up a woodland ridge, nor a better guarantee of happy reminiscence over the winter fire than the awkward moment this weekend when they all three tumbled off together at the same spot. That is why I should end the recess with an exhausted but contented family. That may also be partly why those of us addicted to the horse world eventually outnumber the minority who have resisted it.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

William Frankel laments Stratford's revival of a stereotype

Shylock: must we suffer this old infamy?

Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* is the medieval stereotype of the evil and bloodthirsty usurer. When Shakespeare wrote it in 1596, Jews had not been allowed to live in England for three centuries and scholars agree that, in all probability, the Bard had never met one. He copied the contemporary stage figure of the Jew as the equivalent of Satan, even dressed to look like the popular image of the devil adorned with a large hooked nose. It is not surprising that Launcelot Gobbo, a clown in the play, refers to Shylock as "the very devil incarnate."

But the genius of Shakespeare prevented him from swallowing the stereotype whole and Shylock's passionate attack on his persecutors ("Hath not a Jew eyes?") commands sympathy. But only for a few minutes in a three-hour drama devoted to the cornering, routing and humiliation of the monster. Even the contempt which Shakespeare evidently intended the audience to feel for the gentle persecutors ameliorates only slightly, if at all, the hatred directed at the victim.

It has generally been assumed that those who read Shakespeare or see his plays performed are either knowledgeable and sophisticated adults or children in a classroom where problems are explained so that neither is likely to be infected by the anti-Jewish prejudices of the sixteenth century. As a further insurance against that danger, many of the great actors who have played Shylock, from Keane and Irving to Olivier and O'Toole, have successfully given the character some dignity, nobility or tragic quality.

Ian McDiarmid's portrayal of the role in the production of *The Merchant* which opened at Stratford last week disregards this recent convention. He plays the part as it might have been in Shakespeare's time - comic, villainous and avaricious, cruel and insolent in success, servile in defeat - every-



McDiarmid's studiously villainous Venetian Jew (left). Keane, Irving, O'Toole and Olivier (clockwise from top left) portrayed him with greater sympathy

thing, in fact, apart from the hooked nose and devil's costume.

McDiarmid explained, in an interview published before the opening, that his Shylock "will be just as Jewish as I can make him, although I am not a Jew".

The comment is revealing. Mr McDiarmid is not saying that he meant to reconstruct Shakespeare's imaginary portrait of a medieval Jew, he is presenting Shylock as a real Jew as he sees Jews, replete with anachronistic side-curly and guttural accent. As further evidence of his search for contemporary authenticity, he told the interviewer that he had prepared for the part by visiting Jerusalem, where he "felt very much an alien in a Jewish world". It is hardly surprising that a Shylock thus envisaged, researched and presented should give offence - an effect which the actor disarmingly anticipated.

Jews have had to learn to live with *The Merchant of Venice*. It is on occasion uncomfortable, and I recall my own feelings of embarrassment when, as a schoolboy, I studied the play as a "ser book" in a class in which I was the only Jew. Still, we were taught that the plots were second-hand and that the characters reflected the ignorance and prejudice of the time. That helped.

But since my school days, prejudice against Jews has led to fearful consequences and there is now less disposition to ignore anti-Jewish stigmas however venerable their source. Even the most sympathetic presentation of Shylock does not prevent *The Merchant* from being anti-Jewish, but for a long time now, Jews have been reluctant to invite accusations of philistinism or paranoia by pointing this out. Mr McDiarmid's "Jewish" portrayal challenges that reticence.

Actors and directors operate in a world which is not entirely populated by the educated and sophisticated. Prejudice, bigotry, discrimination and even persecution have not disappeared. The reproduction, in this real world, of ancient stereotypes should take into account their potential for inciting or reinforcing racial or religious prejudice.

I believe that Mr McDiarmid's Shylock can have that effect, a view which is fortified at Stratford by the approving reception some members of the audience gave to the most virulent passages of the play.

The fact that Shakespeare wrote *The Merchant* 400 years ago does not guarantee that it will be looked at today as only of artistic or antiquarian interest. Old images die hard. It took more than 1,000 years before the Vatican Council felt impelled to take action to destroy the ancient image of the Jew as Christ-killer. And that exculpation



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE MATABELELAND DOSSIER

Evidence is mounting of serious wrong-doing in southern Matabeleland, and the response of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe ("The security forces are performing a wonderful duty") is woefully inadequate.

The main evidence comes from a four-page report delivered to the government by the Roman Catholic bishops' conference: it details beatings, torture and killings of civilians and also alleges a deliberate policy of starvation. Similar allegations were also made in a 13-page dossier submitted by the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission. And British journalists, braving official displeasure because access to the area is banned, last weekend produced some confirming eyewitness accounts. Earlier evidence had been enough to cause the Americans to threaten to withhold emergency food shipments unless lifting of the curfew allowed relief to reach areas in which the army was hunting "dissidents". This has now been done. The Prime Minister's visit to Matabeleland was meant as a sign that the military action was going well and things were returning to normal.

It is proper to take note of what defenders of Mr Mugabe say: that the army action is not

against the Ndebele people as a whole but against armed bands of rebels seeking, with South African help, to overthrow the government; that the Prime Minister has made determined efforts since he came to power to reconcile all elements in the population, with some success, as witness the announcement last weekend that Mr Callistus Ndelo, Minister of Mines, had decided to desert Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zanu-PF party and join the ruling Zanu-PF party; and that the government appointed a commission of inquiry last year into previous allegations of brutality by government forces in Matabeleland (though no action has been taken as a result).

Mr Mugabe's counter-attacks on Catholic churchmen will evoke less sympathy. His suggestion that they are somehow creatures of Mr Nkomo and his party is unworthy. Priests serving in an Ndebele area obviously have a sympathy with their flock, but priests also have a commitment to the truth; Mr Mugabe would do well to remember the role the Roman Catholic Church played in exposing the wrongs committed by the Smith regime.

More importantly, even if the case for stern action against dissidents is admitted, this

cannot excuse the sort of brutalities that the Fifth Brigade is alleged to have committed in Matabeleland. The fact that a totally Shona-speaking unit was sent to a totally Ndebele area itself causes a problem. Talk of "genocide" is an exaggeration; the church report says that a few hundred of the 500,000 people in the region could have died; but it would be idle to deny that racial tensions exist between the majority Shona and the minority Ndebele, who dominated the Shona for a long period of their history.

Mr Mugabe came to power four years ago on a wave of goodwill. He showed signs of being a magnanimous man of international stature. That goodwill is dissipating quickly, notably as a result of the re-arrest of acquitted men, the torture of detainees and previous killings in Matabeleland. But some sympathy survives - witness the drought aid - and it is necessary for the well-being of the inhabitants of Zimbabwe. What is absolutely essential now is that the truth of what has happened in Matabeleland be established (there is no good security reason for Mr Mugabe continuing to keep journalists out of the region) and if there is guilt that the offenders are punished. Mr Mugabe's stature calls for no less action.

ANOTHER STALIN'S ENGLISHMAN

Michael Bettaney is the first member of the Security Service in the seventy-five year history of MI5 to have been convicted of espionage. He has won his place on an infamous page of the record books. British counter intelligence has had other deeper traumas in the past however. Anthony Blunt, a glittering wartime recruit to its ranks, was one of Stalin's Englishmen. He escaped trial after a questionable "no prosecution" deal was made to procure his confession in 1964. There have been two inconclusive inquiries into Sir Roger Hollis, its former director general, posthumously presumed innocent in the absence of hard evidence to the contrary. Bettaney mercifully was uncovered before he could expose a single operation or network. But it was no thanks to restraint on his part. His clumsy, determined attempt to pass highly sensitive information to the KGB is no less heinous because it was unsuccessful. If his essay at betrayal had worked, as the Lord Chief Justice said yesterday, more than one death could have resulted. His twenty-three-year sentence is not questionable.

The guardians of national security are well aware that if

Bettaney had been able to fulfil the classic role of Soviet "mole" inside the Security Service over a period of years, he could have been responsible for a disaster of Philby proportions. A generation of counter espionage might have been ruined and brave men working clandestinely for the West sent to their deaths.

As in the recent and infinitely less serious case of Lance Corporal Aldridge, there is relief that a would-be spy was caught so fast but there is also bafflement and unease.

Bafflement arises from the continuing ideological pull of the Soviet Union. It is just possible to believe that Stalin's Englishmen in the 1930s had no real knowledge of the Soviet tyranny. But, in an age when the details of the Gulag are well known and the institutionalized brutalities of the Soviet system beyond question how it is possible for an intelligent civil servant to treat Moscow as the repository of his idealism beggars belief. Geoffrey Prime, the GCHQ linguist convicted in 1982, was another who betrayed Britain for love of Russia. Mrs Thatcher was utterly wrong in the Commons in May 1982 to have assumed such spiritual blight had afflicted only

a single generation of tainted, upper-class Englishmen.

Unease stems from the failure of the positive vetting system to pick up the signs of Bettaney's transition from right-wing Catholic to left-wing Marxist. The whole point of having regular five-yearly reviews of security clearance is to divine such changes of heart or instances of successful sexual or financial blackmail by the other side. The screening system failed to trap Bettaney or Prime.

Already a tightening-up process is under way. Prime has admitted the need to take a lie detector test would have deterred him from seeking work at GCHQ. Would psychological screening of the kind about to be introduced for the secret services have exposed Bettaney's twisted intellectual and political progress? There is plenty of material for the Security Commission inquiry into the Bettaney case to ponder. The Commissioners have been in almost continuous session in the 1980s with a series of inquests and reviews. Their labours are a regrettably dramatic reminder that political detente may come and go, but the intelligence cold war never diminishes.

A FRIENDLY HAND FOR LISBON

Mrs Thatcher's visit to Portugal which starts today is one of those soothing, friendly occasions of which one could do with more in international relations. There are no serious bilateral problems between the two countries. Portugal, as no one ever tires of pointing out, is Britain's oldest ally and lived up to the role during the Falklands war, when it provided political and material help and offers of mediation. Trade between the two countries is satisfactory, though Britain's deficit needs reducing.

Nor need difficulties arise because of the different ideological leanings of the two leaders. Dr Soares, the Socialist Prime Minister, has been extending the scope for private enterprise, particularly in banking and insurance, and Portugal's democracy seems firmly anchored near the centre, a remarkable achievement considering the chaos and hand-wringing that surrounded the revolution of 1974. Few would have predicted at that time that democracy would be so well established by now after so many years of dictatorship. Even when a still fairly mobile electorate

turned against the Socialists in 1979, it did not reach for extremes but brought about a coalition of the centre.

A milestone was passed with the constitutional changes of 1982, which dissolved the Revolutionary Council through which the armed forces had been involved in politics since the revolution. At the same time the president was stripped of his right to appoint the chief of staff, thereby removing a chronic source of friction and placing the armed forces clearly under a civilian minister of defence. The last formal vestige of the revolutionary role of the army was gone, and Portugal joined the family of European democracies.

Not that the going has been easy. Far from it. Although luckier than Spain, in being free of Basque terrorism, Portugal has had a difficult time economically. A period of harsh austerity was imposed last year after recommendations by the International Monetary Fund. Subsidies were cut, interest rates raised, and workers laid off. Christmas brought little to celebrate. There were tax increases, unpaid workers and

shops with too few customers. Yet political support for the government survived, and strikes were called off after talks.

However, hopes are now high that Portugal's long wait for entry into the European Community may be coming to an end. On this issue Mrs Thatcher is also an ally, hoping for Portuguese support in her battle for reform of the agricultural policy. Last October there was a summit of European socialist leaders at which Spain and Portugal pressed their case but were rebuffed by France, which felt it could not cope with agricultural competition from the Iberian peninsula. Soon afterwards, however, there was a breakthrough in Brussels which produced an agreement on marketing agricultural products from the Mediterranean. As a result the chances that Portugal could be a member by January, 1986, look better. Difficult though enlargement of the Community will be for everyone it is something the Community must face. If it is an issue which brings Portugal and Britain even closer together, so much the better.

Power of the unions

From Mr J. C. R. Dow
Sir, Professor Wilson, in his letter you published on April 5, criticizes the 364 economists who signed the collective letter three years ago for failing to cite blame for our poor economic performance.

But does he dig deep enough? The role of trade union leaders is to get wage increases for their members; it is right to blame them for using the licence society allows them in pursuit of this aim? Is not the real trouble that unions are allowed excessive power: power to seek to extort wage increases from their employers by inflicting, or threatening to inflict, disproportionate losses on them: power to disrupt society at

large, power, even, to bully such of their own members who may dissent into conforming with an aggressive strategy?

This Government has been moving cautiously to limit trade union powers. It is right to doubt to move cautiously. But it is also right to question whether its moves yet go anywhere near far enough. Despite eight years of monetary targets, and years of heavy unemployment, the annual wage increase is still accepted as part of the natural order of things; and wages are still increasing at a rate which entails substantial inflation.

So long as this persists Government policy is bound to be cautious, and economic growth (as Professor Wilson says) inadequate to make inroads on unemployment. Sir

Keith Joseph is only too likely to be proved right in his assertion that monetarism alone is not enough.

In redefining the powers of unions it will not be easy to find a fair and acceptable balance which recognises society's interest in price stability while at the same time allowing workers to associate in defence of their legitimate interests.

Trade unions have, however, too long been immune from franker discussion of the anachronistic and anarchic nature of our present arrangements, of which the present behaviour of the mineworkers is only the latest manifestation.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. R. DOW,
Reform Club,
104 Pall Mall, SW1.

Putting the Caribbean record right

From Mr Nigel Forman, MP for Carshalton and Wallington (Conservative)

Sir, The Commons Foreign Affairs Committee report on Grenada achieved a thoughtful balance in its conclusions. The same cannot be said for your editorial (April 6).

You accuse the Government of having been unresponsive to the "cries for help" from Commonwealth Caribbean countries and of having misjudged the situation in the Caribbean. Yet you overlook the fact that the majority of Caricom (Caribbean Community) countries, as Trinidad's Prime Minister said at the time, were against immediate intervention. It was the decisions of the American Government which changed the position and made possible the action eventually taken.

The report certainly depicts shortcomings in consultation, in this instance between the United States and Britain. The Foreign Secretary, in his evidence to the committee and Secretary Shultz in your columns (April 2) have said as much. However, it is going too far to draw general conclusions about the "basic fabric" of the Alliance and absurd to claim that Britain can no longer be relied upon.

The charge of "passivity" is one to which the Foreign Secretary has said he will respond in due course. Meanwhile it is worth noting that you have shifted the ground on which the charge is supposed to rest. The committee suggested that it was passive of Britain not to have sought more energetically to dissuade countries in the region from the course of intervention. On the other hand, you appear to be saying that the Government's "passivity" lay in not immediately joining in the action which was taken.

You also choose to ignore the committee's conclusions that opposition to the action within the Commonwealth justified "a considerable degree of caution" on the part of the British Government and that Britain's non-participation "avoided serious repercussions" in relations with the rest of the Commonwealth.

The Tisdall case

From Mr Arthur Palmer

Sir, The correspondence in your columns about Miss Sarah Tisdall and the justice or otherwise of the court sentence that she received prompt me to speculate on what would have been the outcome if she had passed the document, not to The Guardian newspaper, but to a select committee of the House of Commons.

I ask this because I remember the occasion when a document purporting to be the minutes of a Cabinet subcommittee was sent to the Select Committee on Energy, of which I was then vice-chairman.

The minister under examination thought the use of the document for questioning him was hardly cricket, but nothing was heard of any special investigation - police or otherwise - to trace the source of the disclosure.

Also, some years before, when I was Chairman of the old Select Committee on Science and Technology, highly placed persons on at least two occasions told me privately of the existence of Government

In short, although it may now be your view that by not taking part in the intervention Britain displayed a failure of nerve, intelligence and judgment, this contrasts oddly with the view you expressed at the time, namely that the American action was illegitimate.

You conclude by referring to the security problems of micro-states in general. Perhaps you did not notice that the select committee in its report applauded the Government's support for the Commonwealth study of these matters which was initiated by the Secretary General.

We must all hope that this will lead to future decisions which will help to prevent similar problems arising in the Caribbean or elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL FORMAN,
House of Commons,
April 13.

In Central America

From Mr Peter Croft

Sir, Mr Greene's letter to you (April 13) ignores an obvious distinction. Even if it is true that the United States is supporting terror to the same extent as the four states cited by Mr Shultz, it remains true that the four original culprits could end the entire problem by simply ceasing to interfere with their neighbours.

The United States would then, without doubt, be only too delighted to relax its efforts. If the United States ended them unilaterally, however, the only result would be an increase in Soviet-sponsored subversion throughout Central America, leading to the imposition of tyrannies far more brutal, complete, and permanent than the worst that exists at present.

In the circumstances, however much one sympathizes with the American dilemma, the rational option must be to support their action.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CROFT,
27 KERRISON ROAD, WS,
April 13.

documents which they felt would be of value to the committee's investigations into then topical energy matters. This indeed proved to be very much the case.

I was grateful to my informants because, although select committees are given by the Commons the ground-sounding power to send for "persons, papers, records", in practice this is difficult to apply. A select committee cannot send for a particular paper or record if it doesn't put the "crime" of the document exists and certainly no minister or civil servant will publicly reveal its existence to the committee.

The experiences I have recounted strengthen my firm conviction that, apart from defence secrets of use to a foreign Power or potential enemy, there should be open information about the activities of a democratically elected government. Also, doesn't it put the "crime" of the unfortunate Miss Tisdall in a more reasonable perspective?

Yours etc.,
ARTHUR PALMER,
14 Lavington Court,
77 Putney Hill, SW15,
April 5.

Fears for the Sakharovs

From Dr Allan Wynn

Sir, Mrs Natalya Hesse's moving account of the perilous situation of the Sakharovs (Spectrum, April 9) concludes with a plea for Dr D. Sakharov to obtain medical assistance for his wife, who is so severely ill that there is fear for her life, and states Sakharov, "her death would be the end of me also".

Today I received (from her family) copies of four electrocardiograms, the latest dated January 25, 1984, which show undoubted evidence of extensive heart-muscle damage from previous heart attacks. Since January she has had a further attack.

Both Dr and Mrs Sakharov require urgent medical investigation and treatment, the facilities for which are not available in their place of exile. Indeed it is doubtful whether the special hospital (in Moscow) to which Sakharov, as an "ambassador", is entitled to go would be adequately equipped. In any case he has been refused admission there by the Central Committee (the Academy's doctors have recommended his admission).

Your readers should know that a leading British cardiologist has offered to make the facilities of his department available to the Sakharovs and our committee has undertaken to be responsible for the cost. Mrs Sakharov applied for a permit to go abroad for medical treatment 12 months ago but has received no reply.

Yours sincerely,
ALLAN WYNN, Chairman,
Andrei Sakharov Campaign,
1 Doyley Street, SW1,
April 9.

Sharing our heritage

From Mr Russell Chamberlain

Sir, Kenneth Hudson's argument (April 3) for retaining domestically produced cultural artefacts in favour of - if necessary - dispersing foreign artefacts abroad does rather seem to be standing current UK museum policy on its head.

I personally, have never been to Nigeria and doubt if I ever shall. My only chance of a direct, personal insight into Nigerian culture is through the artefacts currently conserved in the Museum of Mankind, for example. And, on balance, it's not a bad idea for stay-at-home Nigerians to get a picture of my culture through Chippendale chairs, or whatever.

Some time ago I asked David Symonds (then the then Assistant Director of the Auckland Institute) what was the view of Maoris

regarding the dispersal of Maori historical artefacts abroad.

He replied: "I did raise the question of repatriation with the New Zealand Maori Council and their reply was that, while they would very much like to see their treasures back in New Zealand, they also felt it was important that other people should know about the Maori".

Now there's a sane and civilised response to this nagging question.

Roy Strong, in reviewing my book *Look!* recently, made the point that "the number of objects in contention is actually minuscule". Wouldn't it be marvellous if we could only clear the field of this tiny, but emotionally explosive, minority of artefacts whose possession is truly in dispute, in order to concentrate upon a rational solution to the whole problem.

Yours etc.,
RUSSELL CHAMBERLAIN,
3 Harvey Gardens,
Addison Road,
Guildford,
Surrey,
April 5.

Numerical advantage

From Mr William Smith

Sir, In her television interview with Sir Robin Day the Prime Minister defended her policy of abolishing the GLC by saying "thirteen million people voted for it". She said exactly the same on another occasion a week or two ago.

The argument that everybody who voted Conservative at the general election was consciously voting for the abolition (after almost a century) of the elected government of London is fallacious and dubious. But if that is the way Mrs Thatcher wants to argue, is it not obvious that the seventeen million people who rejected Conservative policies and voted for other parties were by the same token voting against the abolition of the GLC?

Mrs Thatcher goes on mentioning the thirteen million people but never mentions the seventeen million. I am beginning to find this dishonest. It sounds like an attempt to hoodwink the unthinking public into believing that if thirteen million people "voted" for it it must be right and democratic. It is, of course, the most disgracefully undemocratic proposal ever to be put before a British Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM SMITH,
5 Gravel Hill,
Emmer Green,
Reading,
Berkshire,
April 11.

Police manipulated on picketing?

From Councillor Derrick Fysh

Sir, The control of mass picketing seems to have been turned upside down. The Government passed its own, quite specific, law, dealing with their wrong picketing is up to the employer, acting through the civil courts. The police function is a secondary one, not arising from that law, but from their general duty.

It is not their job to prevent mass pickets from assembling, nor to stop them from being effective; they must deal with actual and potential breaches of the peace in picket lines, just as they must if the situation arises while they walk up and down a high street or watch a pub turning out.

What has happened is that the Coal Board, as employer, has deliberately stepped back from the opportunity the Conservative Government gave it and the chief constables have let themselves be manoeuvred into taking on the main part of the task of controlling this picketing. This was naive and shortsighted of them.

There is no sign that they considered the priority of the task they were undertaking as against the requirements for police to control

football crowds, housebreaking, mugging, looting in shopping centres, and all their other jobs.

Last November the Home Office ordered them to make sure that their judgment of such priorities reflected "the wishes and needs of the public they serve". (Circular 114, November, 1983). They appear to have ignored this document completely. Moreover, in deciding how important they felt these particular potential breaches of the peace to be, they did not take into account the fact that Mr MacGregor does not think the mass picketing activities of the NUM important enough to require the Coal Board to use the civil court procedure that the Government made available to them.

I personally dislike the bullying attitude which is an inevitable part of mass picketing. That is not the point I am making. I believe that the British chief constables have reacted wrongly to that bullying.

Yours etc.,
DERICK FYSH,
82 Woodthorne Road South,
Tottenham,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands,
April 12.

Economies in the NHS

From the President of the Royal College of General Practitioners

Sir, Dr Stephen Amiel and others (April 9) were surprised that I did not sign the letter, "Economies in the NHS" (March 21). My failure to sign the letter from my fellow presidents should not be read as any lack of my college's commitment to the NHS and its defence. However, bids for appropriate resources should be made in the context of careful studies of health care so that such resources can be of maximum benefit to the community.

The problem is that expressing opinions about the level and distribution of such resources, unsupported by facts and substantial analysis, actually diverts attention from a fundamental weakness in the NHS - it still has no sure way of assessing and evaluating the quality of patient care it provides, and so of gaining a true assessment of the funds it needs.

Professor Rudolph Klein, in his recent article in the *British Medical Journal* (April 7) on auditing health care policies, put his finger on the nub of the problem when he said that at present there is no satisfac-

tory way of making the vast mass of data on health care readily accessible, of showing trends, and especially of providing analyses of quality and of developing an appropriate conceptual framework.

My college is committed to the principles and practice of evaluating health care in our own discipline and generally. Thus we supported the recommendation of the royal commission on the NHS that there should be an Institute of Health Services Research and, two years ago, developed our ideas further when we suggested to the office of the Chief Scientist in the DHSS that there was a strong case for similar, multidisciplinary health care research units in each region.

The RCGP will urge the Government to get to grips with the problem so that the public and the health professions have a sound basis for deciding priorities and levels of expenditure on health care in the future.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LAWSON, President,
The Royal College of General Practitioners,
14 Princes Gate,
Hyde Park, SW7,
April 11.

EEC benefits for UK

From Sir David Nicolson

Sir, With the disappointing news today (April 10) that once again the foreign ministers of the Community cannot agree on a method for solving the British budgetary contribution imbalance, one is entitled to ask whether we are approaching this problem in the right way.

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce represents some 50,000 businesses in this country and it is in favour of developing the Community and our relationships with it, because it believes that our future lies in this direction and the increase of our mutual trading in a true common market. It is therefore dismayed to see the growing isolation of Britain in the Community, the interminable bickering which goes on in this budgetary subject, and the damage caused to the Community and its image.

It is obvious that the Community, which has a budget of less than 1 per cent of the combined income of the member states, will need additional income in the future and that there will have to be new policies in parallel with a reformed common agricultural policy if it is to move forward and yield the full potential benefits which its member countries hope for.

Whereas Britain will never benefit as much from the CAP as some of our partners like France or Ireland, there is good reason to believe on the other hand that a common

energy policy might well benefit Britain more than others and that this might be an alternative way to redress our budgetary imbalance.

Unfortunately, we appear to have no "blueprint" for the Community we would like to see in the future, or agreement on whether we would like to see common energy or transport policies, or indeed, a common industrial strategy, and therefore we have no measure of what the effect of such developments might be on the British economy or budgetary contribution.

Surely the time has come when we should make our mind up about the European Community and what we want it to become, what we can contribute to it, and what the true priorities are.

Our total contribution to the Community budget is less than 1/4 per cent of our own national budget, and the amount in dispute is appreciably less than that. Whilst agreeing that we should not permanently be discriminated against so far as our net contribution is concerned, one must ask the question whether there could not be less confrontational and more imaginative ways of securing a fair deal during the next stage of evolution of the Community when new policies will have to be developed.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
DAVID NICOLSON, President,
Association of British Chambers of Commerce,
15 Hill Street, W1.

Omdurman bombing

From Mr Louis FitzGibbon

Sir, Many people were extremely surprised by two articles published by your newspaper on the Omdurman bombing of March 16. Particularly damaging to friendly international relations was the piece by Edward Mortimer (March 21) which gave credence to the absurd notion that the Sudanese had bombed themselves.

Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, told the Security Council meeting on March 27 that the aircraft was photographed and that it is not possible to disguise the profile of a TU 22. Only Libya possesses such a machine in North Africa.

This particular aircraft flew in from Al Kufra oasis in south-east Libya and approached Omdurman from the south-west at low altitude. It was seen by many people. It released four bombs, the third of which hit the Sudan radio installation building.

One bomb failed to explode and was found to be of Soviet manufacture in 1978. After the bombing the TU 22 flew off in a north-westerly direction and returned to Al Kufra. The names of the crew are known.

In his press conference at the Africa Centre on March 19, Joseph Oduho, a Southern Sudanese revolutionary, said the raid was carried out by a Sudanese air force MIG, but it is just not possible for a fighter aircraft to carry 500 kilo bombs. Later, in the Libyan newspaper *Al Arab*, Oduho said the raid was the work of his Sudanese People's Liberation Army. He cannot have it both ways.

The United Kingdom has no reason to withhold a condemnation such as would be a proper act of friendship towards a country with whom we have such long historical

links. Further, and perhaps better, would be a strong condemnation by the European Parliament.

If none of these things is done, many Africans may well think Egypt has abandoned them to the growing might of the Soviet Union.

Yours etc.,
LOUIS FITZGIBBON,
21 Bloomsbury Place,
Brighton, Sussex,
April 9.

Words and worship

From the Reverend John Kirkby

Sir, Roger Scruton is quite wrong in his article today (April 10) in stating that the Church of England is free to ignore completely the wishes of its congregation. The Alternative Services can only be used with the consent of the parochial church council, who are the elected representatives of the congregation. Nowhere in his article does he mention this important fact.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KIRKBY,
The Vicarage, Wootton, Bedford.

Voice of experience

From the General Secretary of the Guild of Church Musicians

Sir, Recent letters telling of devoted service by chorists may be worthy of a pat on the back, but what, one wonders, is the quality of the voice at these advanced years?

Should choirmasters give way to sentiment and allow chorists who should have long since retired to continue in this way? Such bodies as this guild, which promotes the highest standards in church music, cannot commend such practices.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EWINGTON,
General Secretary,
Guild of Church Musicians,
Hillbrow,
Godstone Road,
Bletchington, Surrey.

DOOPER
comedian



THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Air of mystery lingers at Commercial Union

Mr Sandy Marshall, chairman of Commercial Union, was refreshingly good-humoured in the face of disgruntled shareholders at the troubled insurance group's annual meeting yesterday. But he did little to clear up the air of tantalizing mystery surrounding the company which has done so much to support the share price over recent weeks.

No, he said, the company had been quite unable to substantiate rumours that it was being stalked by a bidder. And, despite persistent speculation, he was not going to announce the sale of the much-troubled US insurance interests for the time being although shareholders and board alike would probably be relieved to see them go.

The difficulty is not so much whether CU wants to sell its US business but more whether anyone wants to buy it. The US conglomerates, which have previously shown themselves willing to buy into the insurance business, have probably been frightened off by the heavy losses. Indeed, with American Express selling off its Firemans Fund, they are more likely to be sellers than buyers.

Aetna Life and Casualty is said to have been sniffing round CU, but it has denied that it is interested. And, anyway, the US analysis believe Aetna has enough problems of its own.

There is a massive underwriting problem for US insurers from bad weather in 1983/84 on top of the already poor underlying trend. It will be a brave US company which decides it can handle both its own problems and those of CU to boot. What they would like to do is to buy CU's business out and then close it to reduce excess capacity. But no one can afford to do it.

The British composite insurers have seen what has happened to CU because of its US dash for growth and they are unlikely to want to get involved.

The credible buyer for the US interests must be a continental company, such as National Nederland or Allianz Versicherungs which lost Eagle Star to BAT Industries but made a huge profit in the process. They might be prepared to take a long-term view.

Much the same arguments apply to any discussion about a bid for the whole of CU. Whoever is brave enough will probably have to find more than £1,000m and that is a lot of money for anyone, including the continental companies. The continental insurers might be more interested if they believed they were getting something at a bargain price. The advent of a bid from an industrial conglomerate - like BAT and Eagle Star - is perhaps more likely.

But CU's share price, now nudging its asset value, must be vulnerable if nothing comes of all this bid talk. The first quarter results for all insurance companies are going pretty awful although yesterday Mr Marshall was making some encouraging noises about some parts of the US market. Worse, next year is unlikely to be brilliant either. What happens if the dividend cannot be maintained? Yesterday shareholders were only too aware that it was covered by earnings only by virtue of a little juggling, legitimate juggling, but no more reassuring for that.

Mr Marshall was wise enough not to give any more hostages to fortune in the face of questioning by shareholders who had too many promises which were subsequently broken. But that, may not be enough.

Mirror opens a new front

The ever-inventive Mr Clive Thornton has opened a new front in his attempts to square the two circles threatening the flotation and future of Mirror Group Newspapers.

On the one side he faces the unexpected uncertainty over future printing in Manchester caused by the decision of the International Thomson group not to renew printing contracts at its loss-making Withy Group plant. On the other, he is struggling to find some way of maintaining the *Daily Mirror* as a left-leaning newspaper, when Mirror Group shares are sold by Reed International on to a free market beset by the likes of Mr Robert Holmes a Court.

Mirror Group will come to market in the shadow of Reuters, which is still fighting a running battle with the institutions over its restrictive shareholding arrangements.

Both the British Insurance Association and, more vociferously, the National Association of Pension Funds have been urging their members to boycott the underwriting of the issue and, less convincingly, the purchase of Reuters shares.

S. G. Warburg, who is handling the Reuters launch, is sufficiently concerned to have arranged a meeting with the institutions to try and head off any inconvenient solidarity while at the same time making more detailed arrangements with American institutions which could result in a separate over-the-counter quotation, following the planned simultaneous London/New York share marketing.

Having run through a whole series of bright ideas and had them rejected either by the institutions or by Reed, Mr Thornton might well think it a good scheme to persuade some of the trade unions themselves to invest in Mirror Group or at least to encourage individual union members in the group to make more than a token investment.

Early attempts at this are being made through Unity Trust, the prototype trade union bank to be owned by 30 unions and the Co-op Bank. If this gets off the ground, it will be initially capitalized at £3m.

The current scheme envisages the publishing of a serious left-wing tabloid - something akin to the long-mooted *Daily Herald Mark 2* - which will please the unions and help fill up the £30m - 50m new web-offset printing plant which Mr Thornton is thinking about starting in Manchester to print his northern editions. And, in Mr Thornton's mind, such a job-creating investment might also persuade the print unions to agree low-cost staffing and modern methods.

Whether any of this will happen remains to be seen. It already looks as though Mr Thornton is determined to take Fleet Street by the scruff of the neck as he did the building society movement in his days at Abbey National. Whatever the arrangements when Mirror Group is floated, would-be investors are unlikely to be starved of excitement.

Long betrothal for City marriage

National Westminster's County Bank last night moved swiftly to kill suggestions that there was any problem over its plan to buy 29 per cent of Bisgood Bishop, the Stock Exchange jobbing firm.

Nevertheless, the two sides have been talking since before they published their intentions in February, and it is rare for non-material deal to take so long to complete. Certain conditions have yet to be fulfilled, we are told.

Salaries are an obvious problem. The banks will expect to fit their new employees into the existing hierarchies. But some jobbing partners regularly earn six-figure annual salaries, even touching seven figures in peak years. Further down the line, tempting offers have had to be made to keep younger talent. It will be surprising if some of the brides in these weddings do not actually reach the altar.

Share prices drop 20 points in worst day since 1981

By William Kay, and Christopher Dunn

The nervousness which has been infecting the London stock market in recent weeks finally spilled over yesterday into a bout of determined selling by gilt-edged holders and severe marking down of ordinary share prices.

The immediate causes were an increase in US Prime rates and fears that the National Union of Mineworkers was regaining the initiative in its war of attrition.

These factors were enough to drive the FT 30-share index down 13.2 to 882 by the end of the morning. Then a rumour swept the market that a building society was about to reverse the latest cut in the mortgage rate. This led to renewed price-cutting, taking the index down 20 points at the close to 875.2.

This ranks as the biggest one-day fall for two and a half years. The FTSE 100-share index, which began in January, experienced its deepest fall so far, losing 23.5 to reach 1,103.6.

The increased attractiveness of US investments inevitably boosted the dollar. The pound's rate against the dollar fell by 0.8 cent to \$1.4220, and its trade-weighted index gave up 0.1 at 79.8.

But it was the fixed-interest side of the stock market which took the greatest strain.

Gilt were sharply weaker at the start of trading yesterday morning, with shorts marked down by perhaps 1/4 point by the jobbers, while long-dated stocks were weaker by as much as a full point.

The market reacted favour-

ably to the March retail sales figures, which suggested a slowdown in the pace of consumers' spending, and losses on the day closed up considerably. But sentiment weakened again after hours, and prices were marked down further. The brokers Phillips and Drew reported seeing some chunky selling, and confirmed its bearish stance on the market.

By the end of trading, short-dated stocks were down around 1/4 point and longs had shed up to 1/2 point. A well followed stock like Treasury 13 1/2 per cent 2004/08 was trading at 125 1/2 middle, compared with a list price in the morning of 126 1/2.

Technical factors also affected sentiment. The announcement by the Government Broker last Friday of fresh

tablets for sale among the low coupon short-dated stocks was taken by some traders to imply that the authorities were too worried about underlying market trends to attempt selling a fully fledged newly created stock.

One of the heavyweight stocks among shorts, Eschquer 14 per cent 1984, went ex-dividend for the last time before redemption on May 22. The market expects the authorities to issue a fresh replacement stock shortly.

Other traders considered that the narrow yield range within which short-dated stocks have been trading had been breached decisively, so that a period of turmoil would now necessarily ensue before a fresh trading range could be established.

Spending in shops down 1.5%

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Consumer spending in the shops fell by nearly 1 per cent in March, leaving retail sales in the first three months of the year some 1.5 per cent below their level late last year, according to provisional Government estimates.

But officials, and the retail trade, were anxious yesterday to defuse fears that the consumer spending boom has run its course.

They said the cold weather and a late Easter may have deferred spring buying of clothes and other items. Business is expected to pick up once more after the 1 per cent reduction in the mortgage rate at the beginning of this month and the Budget tax cuts which take effect in May.

The Retail Consortium said there were already signs of higher spending on clothes this month, though sales of consumer durables remained slug-

RETAIL SALES

	Sales by volume (million units)	Sales by value (million £)	% change on previous year
1983 Q1	105.5	105.5	+8
Q2	107.3	107.3	+9
Q3	108.3	108.3	+10
Q4	110.3	110.3	+10
1984 Q1	106.5	106.5	+7
1983 Jan	105.2	105.2	+7
Feb	105.1	105.1	+8
Mar	105.0	105.0	+8
1981 Jan	111.0	111.0	+11
Dec	107.7	107.7	+6
Nov	105.5	105.5	+6
Oct	105.5	105.5	+6

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

slower pace than last, sustained by a steady improvement in people's real incomes. The Treasury is predicting a 3 per cent increase in 1984, after a 4 per cent jump last year.

The March drop in sales, on the face of it, hard to square with the continued buoyancy in personal bank borrowing. There were suggestions in the City yesterday that a large amount of cash may have been absorbed by the rush to buy life insurance policies before the Budget, which abolished tax relief on premiums.

The volume of sales in the first quarter was 3 per cent higher than 12 months earlier, compared with a 6 per cent annual jump in the fourth quarter last year.

By value, retail sales in the first quarter were 7 per cent higher than a year previously, suggesting that prices in the shops are still rising more slowly than the general inflation rate of a little over 5 per cent.

New group to manage Telejor

By Our City Editor

The management of Telejor, the troubled pub video machine operation which was privatised as part of London and Liverpool Trust, has been taken over by Atlas Leisure, a privately owned maker of coin-operated gaming and amusement machines.

Telejor was effectively frozen at the end of the year when a group of finance houses took it under their wing and its sales side was closed. The finance houses had leased out the actual machines to pub and club proprietors.

Atlas has written to the 2,200 lessees to say that it is now managing the business and "will also be assuming responsibility for the development of the opportunities the screen provides and the on-going maintenance of the equipment."

London and Liverpool shares, which touched the equivalent of 350p last year on hopes surrounding Telejor, have fallen to 11 1/2p as investors await the outcome of a financial reconstruction.

Hill Samuel, the merchant bank, is trying to reshape the group purely as a distributor of office equipment so that it can arrange for an injection of new equity capital. This in turn depends on establishing a stable trading record.

Satellite Television seeks further £5m

By Philip Robinson

Satellite Television is raising a further £5.3m from shareholders to finance Sky Channel, the first commercial television to be beamed across Europe. It is losing £100,000 a week.

The new money will bring the total raised since the company was formed two years ago to £10m. News International, owners of Times Newspapers, *The Sun* and the *News of the World*, has 65 per cent of Satellite TV, and is underwriting the issue. It means that its stake could rise to between 75 and 80 per cent if other shareholders decline to take up their rights.

They include D. C. Thomson, the publishing group, Ladbrokes, Ferranti, Barclays Merchant

Bank and Guinness Mahon. None has yet indicated its response.

Satellite's initial document said that it may require £13m over five years. The £3m balance may well be required next year. The breakeven target of the group is still the end of 1987.

The station is now awaiting confirmation that the Dutch Government has approved the channel for its 2 million cable television homes. Approval would more than double the station's existing 600,000 home audience in seven countries, the strongest of which are Switzerland, Norway and Finland. A Dutch deal would also help to attract advertising.

Laporte in £90m deal with US group

By Jonathan Clark

Laporte Industries (Holdings) is to sell its titanium dioxide businesses in Britain and Australia to SCM Corporation, a US conglomerate, for up to £90m.

The deal will make SCM the world's third biggest titanium dioxide producer, while Cash-rich Laporte will use the proceeds to expand in other areas in the chemical sector.

Yesterday, Mr Richard Ringwald, Laporte's chairman, said: "We're not selling it because what's happening today - it's very profitable. We are thinking very long term about what we want to do in the chemical industry."

Titanium dioxide is a white pigment and a vital chemical used in many industries from paint to plastics.

The price will be between £85m and £90m, depending on an evaluation of working capital. But Mr Ringwald would not reveal what net asset value the business had nor what profits it made last year.

The annual results are due next week but the two companies decided to announce the deal yesterday, after several months' negotiation.

Other buyers had approached Laporte, but Mr Ringwald declined to say whether any of them had offered more than SCM. He said SCM's bid was accepted because it offered the best all round deal.

Mr Paul Elicker, SCM's chairman and president, said the price would include a fairly large element of goodwill.

The profits from Laporte's titanium dioxide business have had a volatile history, but Mr Ringwald said the business was very good last year, although results were not significant in group terms.

The Times Budget briefing

The Times is organizing on May 22 a one-day briefing on the consequences for industry and for the personal investor of the far-reaching tax changes announced in the 1984 Budget.

The keynote speaker will be Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who has been closely involved with the Chancellor in the planning of his corporate and personal tax strategy.

Authoritative City specialists will analyse the implications of the Budget for the decisions that individuals and companies make on the raising and use of funds.

A series of sessions has been designed to explain what the tax changes really mean and how businessmen, corporate treasurers, institutional and private investors should respond to get the best out of the new opportunities created.

Detailed topics will include fund-raising by companies, new ways of paying employees and the options for private investors.

The conference as a whole is planned to concentrate on the practical issues involved in a wide range of post-Budget decisions that both companies and individuals will need to take in the new tax climate.

Details of the conference appear at the bottom of this page, with a coupon for those wishing to attend.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1105.6 down 23.5 (day's high: 1122.9; low: 1105.5)
FT Index: 875.2 down 20.0
FT Gilt: 82.07 down 0.36
FT All Share: N/A
Bargains: 24,656
Dataseam USM Leaders Index: 113.57 down 0.76
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1147.51 down 2.62
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,019.67 up 4.46
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 1075.48 down 0.22
Amsterdam: 172.8 unchanged
Sydney: AO Index: 764.6 up 0.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1025.9 down 2.5
Bremen: General Index: 154.63 up 0.21

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE	
Sterling	\$1.4215 down 80pts
Index	79.8 up 0.1
DM	3.7540 up 0.0015
FF	11.5450 up 0.0050
Yen	220.75 down 0.0025
Dollar	Index 127.6 up 0.3
DM	2.6340 up 0.0115
NEW YORK LATEST	
Sterling	\$1.4215
Dollar	DM 2.6370
INTERNATIONAL	
ECU	ED 594522
SDR	ED 740983

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):	\$380.00 pm \$380.10
close	\$380.25-\$380.75 (\$267.25-268.00)
New York (latest):	\$380.50
Kruggerand (per coin):	\$391.00-\$392.50 (\$275.00-276.00)
Sovereigns (now):	\$29.25-\$30.25 (\$62.75-63.50)
*Excludes VAT	

The Times 1984 Budget Briefing

The Tax Strategy of the Budget
Keynote address by John Moore MP
Financial Secretary to the Treasury

The Government has produced a Budget which is forward looking and optimistic, designed to encourage business risk, investment and success. The Chancellor's corporate finance package, phasing out of first year capital allowances, tax concessions on executive share option schemes and other radical changes have far-reaching implications for firms and individuals. To help in making the right practical decisions in the new tax environment *The Times* has arranged a special conference where leading authorities will give detailed answers to three fundamental questions:

- How should funds be raised?
- Where should money be invested?
- How should income be received?

Chairman Kenneth Fleet, Executive Editor, *The Times*

Panel
Tim Congdon Partner, L. Messel and Co.
Trevor J. Sweete Director, Hill Samuel Group
John Carrell Tax Partner, Stephenson Harwood
Ian E. Hayes National Tax Partner, Armitage & Norton
Mark Powell Director, Laing & Cruickshank

The briefing will be held at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London, on Tuesday 22nd May 1984, the cost being £250 plus VAT. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Those wishing to attend are invited to complete the application form below and send it, together with the fee, payable to: The Times 1984 Budget Briefing Limited, Hazlitt House, 28 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AR.

A VAT invoice and full particulars will be sent with admission cards.

The Times 1984 Budget Briefing

Please reserve _____ place(s) at the above briefing at £250 plus £37.50 VAT per delegate, for the following:

Cheque enclosed £ _____

Please send seminar ticket(s) and VAT receipt/invoice to:

Attention _____

Position _____ Firm _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ulster bank collapses

Dozens of Northern Ireland investors waited yesterday outside the locked Belfast office of Kingsnorth Bank International, which has announced that it is going into voluntary liquidation.

● Solicitors' Law Stationary announced pre-tax profits for the year ended December 31, 1983 of £70,000 losses: £438,000 on sales of £19.9m (£19.2m).

Tempus, page 19
● Currys Group, the high street electrical retailers, has increased pre-tax profits for the year to January 25 1984 from £15.06m to £22.52m. Turnover rose from £293.9m to £343.2m.

Tempus, page 19
● Barrow Hepburn Group, the leather company quickly diversifying into engineering and chemical compounds, reported a 30 per cent increase in 1983 pre-tax profits to £1.121m and an unchanged total dividend of 3.2p.

Tempus, page 19

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8 1/2 %
Finance houses base rate 9 %
Discount market loans week fixed 8 1/2 % - 8 %
3 month interbank 8 1/4 % - 8 1/2 %

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/4 - 11
3 month DM 5 1/4 - 5 1/2
3 month FR 13 1/4 - 13

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 7, 1984 to April 3, 1984 inclusive: 8.976 per cent

Whitbread pays £10.5m for 22 THF inns

By Our Commercial Editor

Whitbread & Company, the brewer, has bought 22 Henkeys steak houses - of which six are small hotels - from Trusthouse Forte for £10.5m in a cash deal. Henkeys as a company remains a subsidiary of Trusthouse Forte and rights of preferential stock holders are not affected by the disposal of the assets although the Henkeys name will be changed.

Whitbread, which already has the largest steak house chain in Britain after Grand Metropolitan's Berni Inns, will add the

Henkeys outlets to its 150-strong Beefeater chain.

Mr Tim Thwaites, managing director of Whitbread's retail division, said: "The acquisition is a further important step to expand our retail operations."

The sale fits in with the Trusthouse Forte policy of concentration on core activities like hotels.

And in June, another group, Allied Lyons, will start brewing Australia's best-selling lager, Castlemaine XXXX, on draught in Britain.

Body Shop in premium form

The shares of Body Shop, the franchise operation that sells naturally made skin and hair care products, soared to a healthy premium yesterday of 65p over the 95p issue price.

The one million shares, equal to 20 per cent of the company's equity, were quickly snapped up leaving the three owners of Body Shop paper millionaires.

The founders of the business, that started trading in 1976 and now has 92 outlets worldwide, Mr and Mrs Gordon Roddick, now have a combined 37 per cent holding worth £3m while Mr Ian Benham McGinn has a similarly valued stake.

UK lagging on worker participation

Two-tier board system urged

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

There has been a "hardly perceptible" increase in the appointment of non-executive directors, a survey on company board structures is expected to show. The survey is due out this month from the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators and Korn/Ferry International, the consultants.

This has emerged as the institute urged a new approach in Britain to give a better chance of meeting the demands of the EEC Fifth Directive on employee participation on company boards to improve their accountability.

The case for experimenting with a two-tier system in British

public companies is strong, the institute believes.

Meeting the new directive's demands would mean a "chasmic leap", according to Mr Barry Barker, chief executive and secretary of the institute. This was because of the slowness in appointing non-executive directors and the necessarily long-term development in increasing employee involvement from the bottom.

Under the two-tier experiment an executive board would run the day-to-day affairs of a company, with a non-executive board on which shareholders could be represented with the

company's employees. Such a non-executive board could meet the EEC directive for a supervisory board.

At present, Britain faces options which are unworkable, according to the institute. One option is for a unitary board with direct employee participation. Alternatively, there could be participation through a body representing employees, on the lines of a works council. In a works council operation all papers and information connected with the unitary board would be made available to the works council in advance.

Direct banking worldwide

Comments by the Chairman, The Rt. Hon. Lord Barber

The trading profits of the Bank and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 December, 1983, including the Bank's share of associated companies' profits, amounted to £308 million. After deducting interest on loan capital the profit before taxation was £268 million, compared with £242 million in 1982.

This increase in pretax profit of 11 per cent over the previous year reflects a reasonable overall performance when account is taken of the difficult world trading background, which resulted in a significantly higher level of bad debt provisions against the loan portfolio, the amount rising from £83 million to £134 million. The net effect of exchange movements on profits was almost neutral.

After deduction of taxation and minority interests, the profit attributable to shareholders excluding extraordinary items amounted to £114 million. On the basis explained in the notes to the accounts, the calculation of earnings per share takes into account the rights issue of last May, and amounts to 77.1 pence per share for the year, compared with 85.7 pence per share in the previous year.

Arising from the Chancellor's proposed changes, the Bank has decided to make full provision for deferred taxation on United Kingdom equipment leasing; consequently, a charge of £36 million has been included in extraordinary items. This is partly offset by a profit of £24 million following the sale of a major office building in California.

**Shareholders' Funds
now £1,270 million**

An interim dividend of 9.5 pence per share was paid in October and the recommendation of the Board is for a final dividend of 18.5 pence. The total payment for the year of 28 pence per share on the capital as increased by the rights issue is covered 2.8 times by earnings.

In May shareholders provided £98 million net of expenses in new equity by way of a rights issue. In November US\$200 million of subordinated capital debt was raised by an issue of floating rate notes and the proceeds were received in early January 1984. Capital resources were also augmented by retained profits before extraordinary



items of £70 million. These developments have enabled the Group to sustain a continuing large investment programme in buildings and equipment, as well as to support further growth in our various banking businesses. The continuing need to maintain our capital ratios is well before us and further surplus asset disposals will take place.

By the end of 1983 total shareholders' funds stood at £1,270 million and total capital employed in the Group, including loan capital and minority interests, amounted to £1,919 million.

In 1983 the Group encountered widely varying business conditions as the world emerged from the depths of the recession. In some areas the Group achieved encouraging gains and, among these, it is particularly pleasing to record the strong performance of the subsidiaries in South Africa and California; this reflects much credit on the efforts of the local management in these highly competitive markets.

Confidence factors dominated the banking sector in Hong Kong last year and we had to make substantial provisions in respect of some manufacturing companies which were damaged by the property market situation. However, there was an impressive 26 per cent increase in exports in 1983 which is remarkable evidence of the Hong Kong economy's resilience and adaptability in responding to opportunity. In Malaysia and Singapore, where trading performance was rather flat, results were

enhanced by exchange rate movements, as compared with 1982.

I have already referred to South Africa. In the rest of Africa good trading results were diminished on translation into sterling by a number of currency devaluations, as several Governments strove to implement policies of adjustment to a more difficult external environment.

**Capital Resources
now £1,919 million**

In the United Kingdom our wholesale businesses in the City had a successful year and Chartered Trust swung back into profit. However, our regional commercial banking performed poorly, incurring heavy provisions, and steps are being taken to improve it. Following the acquisition of the outside shareholdings in Midland and International Banks, a Private Act was passed to enable MAIBL to be merged with Standard Chartered Merchant Bank with effect from 31 December, 1983, thus creating one of the largest merchant banks in the City.

Towards the end of last year we announced our intention of applying to join the Bankers Clearing House. We have since agreed to a temporary deferment of our application because the Clearing Banks first wish to under-

take a thorough review of the implications of wider membership. We will be co-operating fully with this enquiry which is of considerable significance for the future of domestic banking in this country.

Shareholders will need no reminder of the problems facing the international community as a result of debt servicing difficulties facing many sovereign borrowers. So far the problems have been contained, in that no major debtor has been confronted with a total withdrawal of credit. On the positive side, several countries have begun to make progress in improving the balance of their external accounts. Encouraging also is the greater readiness of Governments, in advance of trouble, to approach the International Monetary Fund and commercial creditors for an orderly rearrangement and refinancing of debt.

**Total Assets
now £28,917 million**

The IMF, in association with the World Bank, deserves great credit for the very positive attitude which these institutions have adopted. Not only have they met emergency calls on their resources but they have succeeded in mobilising the commercial banks to maintain adequate credit flows in an environment of increased risk, thus helping to ensure the success of the longer term programmes of adjustment.

While the progress made is encouraging there is certainly no cause for complacency. All the world's major banks operating in the international market will have to carry refinanced debt for several years as well as contributing new loans to sovereign borrowers until more stable payments positions are achieved. Standard Chartered Group will continue to assist in this readjustment process as well as participating in the financial arrangements needed to further the economic development of the many countries where we have a presence.

Plans to reorganise the Standard Chartered Group, so that "Standard Chartered" becomes the name of the Bank as seen by the public more widely around the world are in hand and are expected to be well advanced by the end of 1984.

Standard Chartered

Copies of the Report and Accounts and of the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from:
The Secretary, Standard Chartered Bank PLC, 10 Clements Lane, London EC4N 7AB.

COMPANY NEWS
IN BRIEF

WAGE GROUP RIGHTS: Wage Group is to raise about £610,000 by an underwritten rights issue of 3.28 million ordinary shares. Results for 1983: Turnover £4,485,000 (£5,191m). Pretax loss £185,000 (£361,000). No dividend (same). Board has implemented a substantial rationalization programme and has taken steps to eliminate the group from the loss-making subsidiaries. Board now optimistic on prospects.

WADKIN: Dividend for 1983, 3p (10.5p) a share. Turnover £26,571m (£26,571m). Pretax profit £465,000 (£524,000). Company has entered 1984 with extended deliveries and heavy orders, effectively having deferred benefits of 1983 recovery into 1984.

BRYANT HOLDINGS: Half-year to November 30, 1983. Turnover £53m (£54m). Pretax profit £4,731m (£3,461m). Interim dividend 1p (0.55p).

BAILLIE GIFFORD TECHNOLOGY: Underwriting completed for offer for subscription of 10.8 million ordinary 25p shares (with warrants attached) at 100p each. Application list open on May 1.

ARMITAGE BROTHERS: Interim dividend of 30p for 17 months to May 31, 1984. Results for 1983: Turnover £12,990m (£12,161m). Pretax profit £528,000 (£526,000). Single dividend of 30p for year 1983 was paid.

BOUSTEAD: Dividend for 1983 cut from 1.25p to 0.5p a share. Turnover £50.1m (£46.5m). Pretax profit £217,000 (£423,000).

M C D GROUP: Results for 1983. Dividend 1.5p (nil). Turnover £29,361m (£25,571m). Pretax profit £1,781m (£759,000). Current year has started well.

JOHNSON AND JORGENSEN PACKAGING: Total dividend for 1983, 3.15p. Turnover £9,631m (£9,071m). Pretax profit £827,000 (£751,000).

C D BRAMALL: Pretax profit for 1983 up 18 per cent to record £2.3m. Sales 27 per cent higher at £67.27m. Total dividend 6.75p (6p).

BOWTHORPE HOLDINGS: Turnover for 1983 £87.21m (£12,781m). Pretax profit £15,241m (£12,411m). Total dividend 4.68p (4.04p). Board expects record sales and profit in 1984.

BEATSON CLARK: Has agreed to buy Brookhill Mouldings, private company, for £1.3m in shares.

EPIC BOLT: Manchester-based engineering company (owned jointly by James H. Vickery and F. Bamford) has acquired, for an undisclosed price, form the receiver, the machine tool division of Edward Williams Engineering, trading as H. W. Ward.

ELBAR INDUSTRIAL: No dividend for 1983 (same). Turnover £72.24m (£68,321m). Pretax loss £1,061m (£2,311m last time).

GREENBANK INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS: Results for 1983. Sales £14,781m (£12,711m). Pretax profit £1,651m (£2,351m). Total dividend 2.1p (same).

SUNLEIGH ELECTRONICS (USM): Turnover for 1983 £2,461m (£1,861m). Pretax profit £402,000 (£31,000). Dividend, 11.245p a share (no comparison).

TURRIFF CORP: Turnover for 1983 £61.781m (£50,391m). Pretax profit £2,021m. Dividend 7p (5.8p). At year-end, group's financial position was stronger than ever, with surplus funds of about £9m.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Loan rate fears slice £3bn off share values

By Michael Clark

The London Stock Exchange had its worst day in almost two-and-a-half years yesterday as fears of higher interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic wiped almost £3 billion from share values.

The FT Index lost 20.0 to 875.2, wiping out much of last week's gains and sending the market bulls running for cover. The market's previous biggest one-day fall was "Black Monday" September 23, 1981, when Wall Street guru Mr Joe

Granville predicted that world stock markets would have their worst shake-out since the great depression of the 1920s. On that day the index tumbled 20.5. The new FT-SE also had its biggest one-day fall since its introduction, losing 23.5 to 1105.6.

The increase in US prime rates over the weekend, coupled with a disappointing performance on the bond market set the tone for yesterday's fall in London. The jobbers were the only winners, marking prices sharply lower first thing in an attempt to replenish their books amid unfounded rumours that one of the building societies was about to raise its mortgage rates.

All this was against a background of increased tension on the industrial front with the miners' strike likely to prove a long affair.

Dealers complained that if anybody had wanted to knock the market, now would be the ideal time while in the middle of a long three-week account. Despite this, turnover was kept to a minimum, with most of the selling concentrated on the leaders and specialist situations.

All thirty of the FT's constituents ended the day lower, but there were signs of cheaper buying at the lower level after hours. The biggest

falls were seen in Allied-Lyons down 6p at 159p, Associated Dairies 4p at 168p, BP 15p at 490p, BICC 5p at 263p, BTR 10p at 477p, Beecham 10p at 321p, Blue Circle 7p at 411p, Bowater 5p at 322p, Cadbury Schweppes 6p at 130p, Distillers 6p at 279p, GKN 12p at 196p, Grand Metropolitan 12p at 328p, and ICI 12p at 594p.

The prospect of higher interest rates also hit government securities, where losses extended to 2½ at the longer end in active trade, as the pound lost ground against the dollar on the foreign exchange. At the shorter end of the market, the falls were restricted to ½ after Friday's announcement of extra tranche of £200m of existing "tap" stocks.

It proved a difficult day for yesterday's newcomers, both of whom started dealing on the Unlisted Securities Market. Broker Capel-Cure Myers successfully placed 1 million shares in the Body Shop at 95p and watched as the opening price hit 153p. The shares eventually closed at 60p - premium of 65p for the group, which produces naturally-based body lotions. It values the stake of Mr Ian McGilgan, a director of the company, at £3.2m. Not a bad return on his original £5,000 investment which helped get the business started.

Ramco Oil Services Group, a specialist in corrosion for oil and gas facilities, also made a healthy start opening at 92p, compared with the original placing price of 70p. Brokers Rowe & Pitman and Grieg Middleton placed the 2.9

Camford Engineering has bought Stamping Alliance from General Motors, the world's biggest car producer. To pay for the deal Camford has issued an extra 900,000 shares giving GM a 4.7 per cent stake in the company which it has agreed to hold onto for the next five years. Net tangible assets of Stamping are £1.7m. Camford slipped 1p on the news to 37p.

million shares now valuing the entire group at £10.6m. Shares of Trade Indemnity held steady at 160p after insurance broker C. E. Heath announced that it had raised its stakes from 327,000 to 678,000,

making a notifiable of 9.4 per cent. But Mr David Newton, Heath's chairman, denied any thoughts of a full bid. "We founded Trade Indemnity and some shares became available", he explained.

The disappointing retail sales figures were widely anticipated, but still had some impact on the stores sector, which was also worried that any rise in the mortgage rate would mean less to spend in the shops. Many of last week's high flyers lost ground.

The expected bid for Minster Assets failed to materialize yesterday, so the shares slipped 9p from their high of 157p. The big City institutions used this opportunity for a spot of cheap buying which left the price only a net 5p lower at 152p as about 1 million shares changed hands. Britannia Arrow remains the biggest shareholder with 18 per cent of the shares.

Comet Group succumbed to profit-taking after the agreed bid last week from Woolworth, losing 6p to 222p, along with Currys Group 20p to 258p and Dixons Photographic 17p to 293p. Video sales are down almost 20 per cent on the same period last year.

Woolworth, which appears to have undergone a re-rating after making its move for Comet, also encountered profit-taking, dropping 7p to 506p. Elsewhere, Boots slipped 6p to 171p, Burton 6p to 287p, MFI Group 5p to 171p and Harris Queensway 6p to 384p.

Royal Insurance's annual report, published yesterday, shows that life business is worth £225m or 119p a share after an independent valuation. Mr Daniel Meinertzhagen, chairman of Royal, said the directors felt it prudent to use this value rather than a "going concern" value of Royal Life which could be worth at least 200p a share. Royal lost 5p at 578p in line with the rest of the market.

Equity turnover on April 13 was £320,973m (20,534 bargains). The total number of British and Irish shares traded was 177.2 million. Gift bargains totalled 3,903.

Profits recover at York Trailer

No ordinary or preference dividends are being paid for 1983 by York Trailer Holdings. The last ordinary dividend was paid in 1980. But the board reported yesterday that with the debt-to-equity ratio down to pre-depression levels, the resumption of dividends is drawing closer. If profits are still holding throughout 1984, and sales trends stay up, the company hopes to start paying some of the preference arrears.

Last year, turnover rose from £21.04m to £23.41m, and a pretax profit of £507,000 was achieved, against a pretax loss of £31,000 in 1982.

LAND INVESTORS: Half-year to Sept 28, 1983. Pretax profit £1.58m (£1.5m). Interim dividend 0.2p (same). Group has sold, or contracted to sell, properties for about £6m.

BERKELEY AND HAY HILL: Company has agreed with British Land to acquire five properties, worth £2.15m.

UNITED KINGDOM PROPERTY: Surplus, before interest and tax, £1.86m (£1.05m) for half-year to Sept 30. Pretax surplus, £1.08m (£204,000).

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Ahead of the Easter holiday, business yesterday was small in currency centres, and largely confined to routine customer orders.

The pound began firmer, but gradually slipped back with the continued coal deadlock an additional reason for operators to keep commitments to a minimum.

After keeping in a narrow half-cent range for much of the day, sterling ended 90 points down at 1.4210 (1.4300) against the dollar, while its trade-weighted level eased 0.1 to 79.8.

Early gains against other leading currencies were either erased or finally replaced with marginal net falls, including the Deutschmark 3.7500 (3.7525); Swiss franc unchanged at 3.1100; French franc 11.5350 (11.5400); and Yen 320.50 (321.00).

MONEY MARKETS

Discount houses found the going difficult, unable to raise sufficient paper to sell to the authorities to relieve a shortage of about £600m yesterday.

An early attempt to ease the situation resulted in the Bank of England attracting only £156m of longer-dated bills from the market. At midday, the authorities bought a further £173m of bills outright and agreed sale-and-repurchase arrangements on another £225m of bills maturing on May 15 at a rate of interest of 8½ per cent.

TEMPUS

Currys wins first round in battle for growth

Even improved profits from Currys could not save it from the general malaise which affected the stock market yesterday. The stores sector generally was hit by worries over the miners' strike, speculation about a rise in interest rates and the announcement that British retail sales for March were again down continuing the decline since December. Currys was singled out for particular attention as the prospects faded of a takeover bid from Harris Queensway, recently thwarted in its attempt to snatch Comet. The share price was duly market down to 358p, the same price as this time last week.

In marked contrast to the external factors, the results themselves attracted little attention. Pre tax profit was broadly in line with expectations, but the 50 per cent increase must be seen against a backdrop of a very competitive market place and in comparison to a very good year in 1982/83. The struggle to achieve genuine growth has been difficult for Currys, but it seems to be winning the battle.

An analysis of the 16.8 per cent increase in turnover shows that 3 per cent was due to price rises and inflation, 6.3 per cent to an increase in floor space and a volume growth of 7.5 per cent.

The continued expansion programme, which involves opening shops and buying bigger premises in prime locations for existing stores continues to take its toll on cash flow. Net borrowings increased by £13m during the year to £22m and a positive cash flow cannot be expected for another two or three years.

The gearing ratio is now about 25 per cent, but Currys has a degree of slack in its balance sheet as properties are valued at cost rather than market value.

The group still wishes to expand its out-of-town operations and it now has 23 Bridgers Discount sites, its electrical and gas discount superstores. The aim is to increase these by 50 per cent each year in a bid to rely less heavily on the high street and to tap the burgeoning out-of-town market. A link with Harris Queensway might be out of the question for the time being, but its concentration on these new locations is just the sort of set up which Currys wants.

The video recorder market is levelling out but Currys has found suitable replacements in microwave ovens and home computers. The company is now poised for modest growth in 1984/85, and should achieve £22m pretax profits, excluding sales of property.

With a price-earnings ratio of 12.4 and a yield of 3.2 per cent, the rating is not demanding, but for faster short term growth other companies such as Dixons might be more attractive.

Solicitors' Law

The results for Solicitors' Law Stationery illustrate in cameo form just how tricky it is for Britain's big name operations, once they fall on evil days, to cope with rapid technological change.

Solicitors' Law, a leading brand name in the legal profession, has been losing market share for years to number competitors, and last produced profits before this year at pretax level in 1979. But at the half way stage this year, the board felt sufficiently confident about autumn prospects to forecast recovery for 1983.

Sadly, however, the group simply failed to connect with the market during its peak autumn buying season for legal stationery; gross margins went haywire and the group also ran into production problems with its money-spinning Waterloo diary. Result? Losses in the division, which were aggravated ultimately at group level, by problems over a Fleet Street lease, which led to far higher proper ty costs.

The impact of the shortfall on group cash flow can be gauged from the interest bill - up from £279,000 to £337,000 - and the rise in bank borrowings, which jumped some £700,000 to £1.6m.

The group is still convinced that there is a rapid growth market in the sector, as the legal profession gradually computerizes. Clearly, also, some of its ideas have paid off, witness the boost to Oyez Press after the introduction of new technology. The group is tooled up to sell computers to legal eagles, and its annual spending on research and development of some £350,000 a year is spawning some £350,000 a year in expanding some attractive new software packages.

But accumulated deficits of £761,000 in profit and loss reserves show that time is not on the group's side as it chases the new markets opening up, particularly since £500,000 is perhaps about the most the group can expect to make in a good year at pretax level.

A capital injection of around £1m would buy valuable time at this stage, but the group's powerful shareholders - Thomson Organisation and Pergamon Press - might insist on radical changes throughout the group before agreeing to provide fresh cash. At 36p yesterday the shares closed unchanged on the results.

Barrow Hepburn

Once again Barrow Hepburn has had to dip into reserves, to the tune of £559,000, to cover the dividend payments. But as the dividend payments, but as Mr Raymond Way, chief executive, argued: take out the £476,000 of extraordinary write-offs and the dividend was more than covered.

But the extraordinary were there, none the less. Happily, however, they are non-recurring. One chunk related to write-downs because of the poor outlook for the French tannery operations and the rest related to legal costs of a court action that has now been settled.

Barrow Hepburn has been blazing away on the acquisition trail for several years now, and although there were three takeovers in the last six months, the company looks to be concentrating its management time on the strongly emerging engineering and chemical compound areas.

Gearing is still only 10 per cent of shareholders' funds and the present year should turn in a performance without the ugly parentheses that have so marred previous profit statements.

There is little doubt that the 30 per cent improvement in 1983 pretax profits to £1,121,000 on a turnover down 10 per cent to £32.5m will be matched in the first half of the present year.

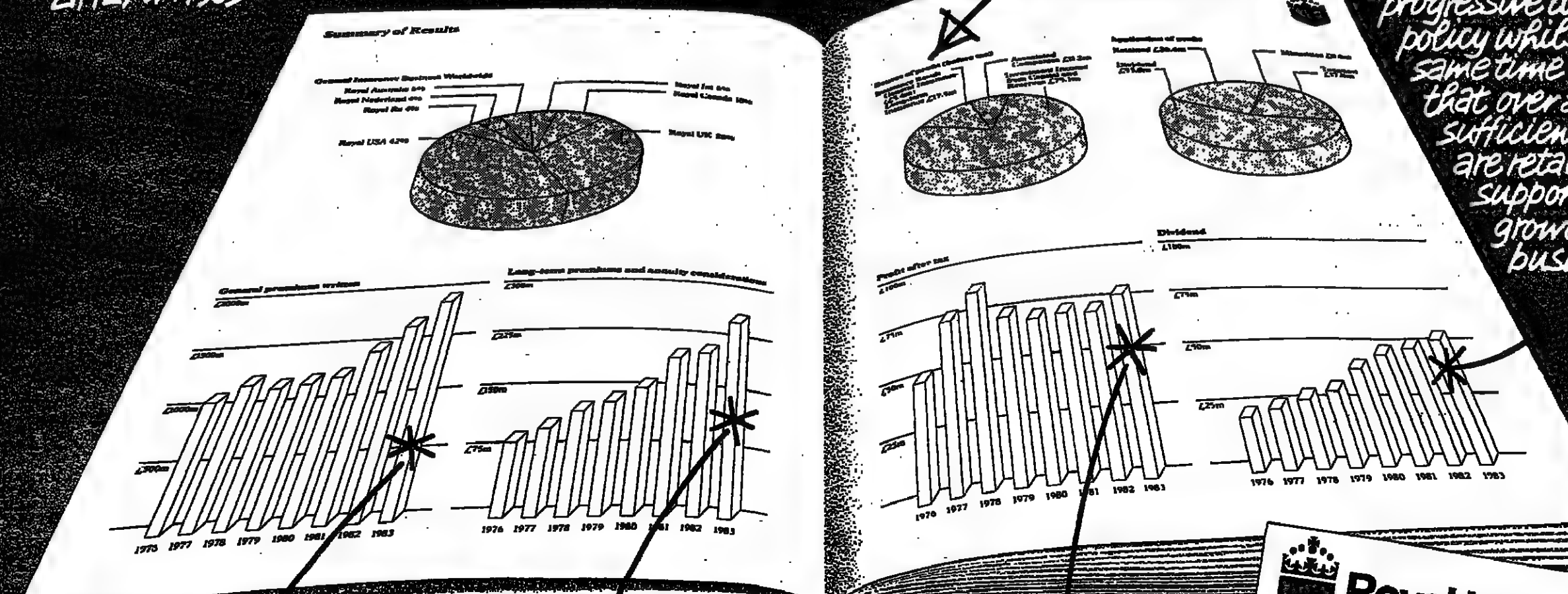
A final dividend of 1.4p was recommended, making an unchanged 2.2p for the year. With a yield of 7.5 per cent and problems with leather quickly fading into the past, the shares should comfortably hold their present peak level of 42p.

ROYAL INSURANCE 1983

NB - one for four scrip issue.
There was another sharp rise in the net worth of the group from £1,225m in 1982 to £1,427m in 1983

Pre-tax profits increased to £98.4m - significant improvements in long-term insurance profits, share of associated companies' profits and investment income from capital and reserves outweighed some worsening in the general insurance result

The dividend increased by 7½% reflecting a progressive dividend policy whilst at the same time ensuring that over a period sufficient earnings are retained to support the growth of business



General premiums written were more than £1,900m

New Life business written by Royal Life during 1983 was a record - new annual premiums increased by 117% and new single premiums rose by 77%

Profit after tax was up 10% at £80.2m

Royal Insurance
Please send me a copy of the Report & Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1983.

Name _____
Address _____

To: The Secretary, The Royal Insurance plc, Group Head Office, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR.

ET - ACTUARIES INDICES

FT - ACTUARIES INDICES	
INDUSTRIAL GROUP	517.61 (526.78)
500 SHARE INDEX	567.49 (577.95)
EST EARNINGS YIELD	9.70% (9.51%)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.24% (4.17%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.71 (12.98)
ALL SHARE INDEX	523.02 (532.00)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.41% (4.34%)

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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● A French revolution: Page 24

COMPUTER HORIZONS

● Guide to holiday courses: Page 25

Edited by MATTHEW MAY

You have ways of making it talk

A voice-driven financial spreadsheet for the IBM PC has been launched by the Micro Technology Group (MTG). Users will be able to do the standard "what-if" analyses, enter data and specify alterations all by voice.

The package, called Scratchpad with VoiceDrive, requires a series of words to be read through three times in order to learn an individual's voice pattern. The voice file is then loaded into the computer's memory and each time a particular individual wants to run the system, the package can be instructed to listen for both the closest and the second-closest match. MTG envisages the system will be of most use to people calling

BRIEFING

off information, requiring "hands off" control in demonstrations or meetings, for use by the disabled and for those who just don't like keyboards. The software requires 128K of user memory and with a Tencor voice recognition card will cost £995.

Voice recognition is also starting to appear on telephone systems. Thorn Electronic's new Encom Direct includes a facility called PRIMA. This Personal Voice Recognition with Name Call Access can connect callers to the desired extension by saying the person's name. The names of people most often called can be placed into the system's library. Each name is then recognized and associated with the relevant extension number and the call automatically connected.

The NEC Corporation of Japan claims to have developed the world's fastest 64K static ram chip. This computer memory chip has a capacity for the storage of 64,000 pieces of information, and needs 40 nanoseconds (a billionth of a second) for access, compared with 100 to 200 nanoseconds for ordinary 64K static ram chips. The company is to ship samples of the latest computer memory product in June to prospective clients. Price: 15,000 yen (£44) each.

A new range of low-cost printers has been announced by Epson (pictured) which already holds a large share of the market in low-medium cost dot matrix machines. The smallest, the P-40 selling at just over £100, uses thermal printing and is able to print at a speed of 45cps across 20, 40 or 80 columns. Running from



rechargeable batteries, it should prove a popular buy for the home user, coming with either serial or parallel connections.

Moving upwards, the P-80 thermal transfer printer will sell at £184, and can be used with both plain and thermal paper. The JX-80 is a colour printer, which, using the same commands as the popular FX-80, will produce up to seven colours from a four colour cartridge ribbon. It will sell for £644.

The finals of The Times National Microcomputer Challenge take place tomorrow at the Holiday Inn, Marble Arch, where the Minister of Information Technology, Mr Kenneth Baker, will present the prizes. Judging will take place throughout the day as the 10 finalists give practical demonstrations of their projects. Competitors were asked to provide a micro computer project involving a novel and socially useful idea.

● Briefing by John Earle, Geoffrey Ellis, Matthew May, Mark Stone

US and Europe clash on transfer tech

Technology transfer is in the news again (see article at right) inspired by an American microchip industry whose paranoia about the Russians acquiring US products is matched only by its revulsion of its home market embracing Japanese technology in preference to its own. Technology transfer via Europe to the Soviet Union was one of the principal issues in Europe last week. The European Industry Commissioner, Viscount Davignon, claimed that Europe was heading for a major confrontation with the US over the issue.

The commissioner said at a conference at Knokke, Belgium, on European-American cooperation that "We are going into a major fight with the United States... which will make chicken-fied of our agriculture dispute". It is a theme with much support in Europe. Davignon himself has been active in trying to rally the European high-technology sector into one formidable army to compete with the Japanese and the Americans.

Davignon is the champion of the ESPRIT programme, the £350m five-year project. The programme name is the acronym for European Programme for Research and Development in Information Technologies. By the end of the project in 1989 European partnerships in high-technology research will have been merged between the giants of Europe - at least, that is the hope.

The theory and the reality are different. The difficulty arises in trying to decide what is European

technology and what is from Japan or the United States. When building a communication satellite in Europe, would not a substantial amount of the original technical work have been done in America? When building a computer or microelectronic telecommunications systems would not the components come from the United States, Japan or some other offshore manufacturing base in the Far East? The answer to both questions is yes.

The world of high technology is increasingly coming to rely on a free flow of technological skills and research. There is no product manufactured anywhere in the world whose content is the result only of local effort, either in research or assembly.

Mr Kasper Cassani, president of IBM Europe, said in Paris last week that tightening further the export licensing controls, as urged by the US Defence Department, would do little to promote international trade. IBM, though unique because of its commanding position in the computer market, is nevertheless a good example of a multinational harnessing the same technology in different locations around the globe in order to manufacture for a world market.

The company found, itself the centre of a political dispute when it had to remind its UK customers that any subsequent resale of product to Eastern Europe would require another export licence from the US authorities. IBM's roots and style are still American but it has prided itself on having a number of manufacturing

subsidiaries around the world. European manufacturing bases on IBM are supposed to be European companies, hence the conflict. The group has shown interest in playing an active role in the Espirit programme, which could further complicate the issue.

What is clear is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to be chauvinistic about the origins of certain technologies, the ownership of the companies that use them and how to define a locally made product.

But the US Department of Commerce is trying. It is particularly keen on restricting the flow of American

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone

technology, fearful that it may fall into the "wrong" hands.

The US administration wants present restrictions to be even more rigid. IBM, which submitted its response 10 days ago was opposed to the new restrictions. According to an IBM spokesman: "IBM believes that the proposals are misdirected and will not be effective in achieving their intended purpose. The existing regulations have worked satisfactorily for many years. Those few diversions that have taken place resulted from criminal actions that no regulations would prevent. The increased extraterritorial application of national laws can only have an adverse affect

on international trade and business volumes".

The issue has caused a backlash from Britain which is determined to retain their sovereignty and not be dictated to by American bureaucrats. The scars are still visible on both sides from skirmishes over the Soviet pipeline embargo imposed by the Americans.

The British preferred to retain their independence, much to the disgust of the Americans. The decision to approve export from Britain is based on three elements: strategic, where the Ministry of Defence advises; diplomatic when the Foreign Office is advised; and economic, which is the province of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Ironically, but for a different reason, ICL, Britain's largest computer manufacturer, found itself slightly embarrassed last week over technology transfer. Not that it was apologizing, but it was conscious that its actions required a little explanation, if not justification. It bought Japanese in preference to British.

The company had been rescued from certain bankruptcy in the spring of 1981 after accumulating £50m losses. The Government had wavered for weeks over what to do with the company but appeared determined to ensure that the British Information Technology industry had a flagship. Without a significant indigenous computer manufacturing base, it was believed, there could not be a credible UK industry in information technology.

Sh...the following may be a US secret

By Kevin Cahill

The director of the CIA, William Casey, told an audience in Silicon Valley earlier this month that the CIA had identified 300 companies in the West, including some in the UK, which were illegally exporting high technology to Eastern Europe. This led to immediate allegations that the CIA had been operating secretly in the UK, allegations repeated by Paddy Ashdown, MP for Yeovil, in Parliament last Friday. The CIA acknowledge that there are UK companies among the 300.

The Government has yet to explain just how the CIA got all this information on British companies, no doubt Mr Casey's allegations combined with revelations by Richard Perles, the US Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security, that the UK has launched its own intelligence efforts into this area will add to the tensions. Delays to computer shipments from the US continue to increase as the Pentagon gets its teeth into the powers recently granted to it by President Reagan to supervise the issue of export licences.

Nato is facing one of the severest tests yet of its cohesion as the row over computers between the United States and the members of the Alliance worsens.

The cause of the tension is simple. The Reagan Administration, as part of its increasingly hard-line attitude to the Soviet Union, has moved suddenly on the leakage of information about even simple micros to East European countries. The methods used by the administration to enforce its will are multiple.

The "export denial list" is a document produced by the US Department of Commerce. It lists those companies and individuals who are denied US export privileges and access to US technology. It has no force of law in the UK although a number of UK companies and individuals do appear in it.

But the document appears as an output under the US Export Administration Act, which, much to the chagrin of alliance governments, gives the US the right to impose US laws over

Continued on next page

Piracy: fightback begins

By David Guest

Software manufacturers are trying to hit back at people pirating software which, they claim, is losing the industry £100m a year. They have been stung into action partly by an unexpected contraction in their hitherto-lucrative business.

The illegal copying of programs was for some time largely the province of amateurs - casual cassette copiers. But now the industry fears that well-organized, high volume operators have moved in and through the main target of pirates is frivolous computer games, the theft of ideas is now being treated as serious indeed.

For the first time, the police are becoming involved: several investigations are under way throughout the country. Meanwhile the search for a technique that will make software "uncookable" goes on.

The nature of the problem is illustrated by the fact that two of the companies contemplating legal action have themselves taken action to protect their copyrights.

Microdeal, a software company based in St Austell, issued a device known as a "dongle" with its latest game. Without the dongle the game cannot be played, making a copy of the game alone useless. Unfortunately for honest users the dongle can add as much as £1.50 to the cost of a game.

Software Projects of Liverpool includes a colour-coded chart with its bestseller, Jet Set Willy. The game, as the player approaches it on a microcomputer, is prefaced by a question, which requires the information on the chart to answer - no chart, no answer, and hence no game. To copy the program alone is not enough, the chart must also be copied, and the law as it relates to the copyright



of printed material is clearer than it is about software.

But within weeks of the game's release, advertisements have appeared in weekly trade papers offering for sale a means of sidestepping the chart and thus making high-volume copying possible.

Such attempts to stop piracy at source are dogged by other inconveniences besides the determination of computer users to overcome any technological barrier. A leader in the development of anti-piracy techniques, Jim Lamont of the tape-duplication company, JLC Data, might take personal credit for spurring the industry into its overdue action. But his own best effort on the software protection front lies on the cutting-room floor outwitted by the Patent Office and the Ministry of Defence as representing a possible threat to national security.

Mr Lamont reacted to the interest by the Ministry of Defence in his technique with disbelief but now he plegmatically accepts that the approach led only into a cul de sac. He has put into production an earlier attempt to curb copiers, by licensing a technique called Imprint 2 to tape duplicators. This is not as comprehensive as

his earlier method but it should stop casual copying and will provide evidence of copying where software producers pursue pirates to the courts.

Two recent developments concentrate on this expensive aspect of bringing the problem under control. A Bristol insurance company, Halsey and Partners, now offers a policy designed to help aggrieved software houses exact legal retribution by covering part of the costs. In a similar context The Software Registry was launched last week in London. This aims to strengthen legal protection for software and to assist companies with legal expenses.

The initiatives are, however, taking place independently of each other. Mr Lamont warned last week: "The main thing to bear in mind is that none of us stands a chance unless we work together."

One possible means of coordinating the software industry's counter-attack lies with the Guild of Software Houses (GOSH). GOSH established a sub-committee last week to investigate piracy. Its chairman, Rod Cousins, admitted that software houses had been taking a "relaxed" attitude. But he said the problem was not intractable.

Looking up: Fortune predicts profits this year

By Maggie McLening

Fortune Systems, the United States 16/32-bit micro-computer manufacturer, is out to prove its critics wrong. Its newly appointed vice-president of marketing, Bob Reubel, claims the company will break even this quarter and make a profit later in the year, after radical changes in senior management and the introduction of new products.

Formed in 1980 by three former employees of Intel, the United States corporation that crashed with record debts a few years ago Fortune Systems was a pioneer of workstations based on Motorola's 16/32-bit 68,000 processor. The Fortune 32-16 was one of the first commercial micros to support a version of the Unix operating system from AT & T, now fast becoming an industry standard, and as such attracted generous funding.

When Fortune Systems went public a year ago, it raised \$100m (about £67m) but went on to make a net loss of \$15m (£7.1 per share) in 1983, lavishing \$12m on research and development with little to show for it. Delivery delays put the company under extreme pressure from customers in the autumn, leading to the resignation of its founder-president, Gary Friedman (who is believed to retain some shares), in November.

Other resignations followed, one of the most recent being that of UK managing director Bill McPherson, until about 40 per cent of top management had changed. Mr Friedman's co-founders, however, Homer Dunn and David Van Den Berg, remained to work under the new president, James Campbell. Fortune stresses that it now has the entrepreneurs under control, as well as its finances.

Mr Reubel said that Fortune's problems stemmed from "over-ambitious targets and promising too much too soon," a lesson the current management admits was learnt the hard way.

He added: "Our new policy is that we will announce the conception when the baby is bouncing on our knee." He is reluctant to discuss release dates for any new products at all, beyond saying that large disks are under evaluation and an upgrade of the ForPro operating system to the latest version of Unix System V "cannot be ignored".

The release of some of the new products promised, such as the enhanced operating system, IBM communications facilities and an upgraded word processing package, has helped to give Fortune an indicated 40 per cent growth rate, according to Mr Reubel.

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"Quiet Nite" determines which of two people in bed is snoring and returns the offender to gentle sleep. Quiet Nite has two microphones, one on each pillow, linked to microcomputer-controlled circuitry designed to recognize the rasp-like noises, and detect which microphone is picking them up. The device uses the microphone to emit a special high-frequency signal which, while not noticeable, triggers the snorer's subconscious to stop him or her making the disturbance. After continual use, this is said to teach the snorer to stop snoring altogether.

The neatly styled device is 2ft long by 1.5in square, and fits on the bed head.

UK events

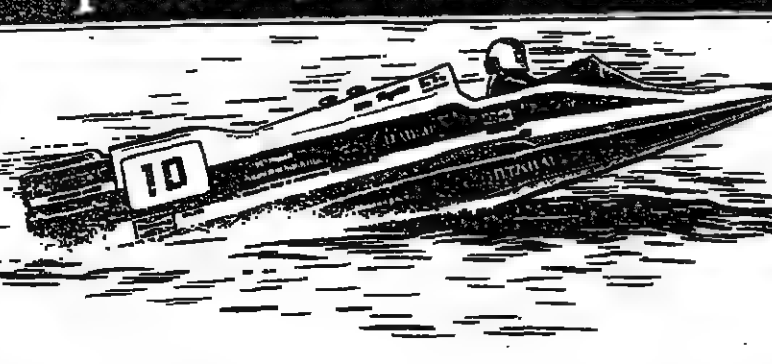
London Computer Fair, Central Hall, Westminster, SW1, April 19-21, 23-25
Personal Computer Games Show, Solihull Conference Centre, Birmingham, April 20-22
ZX Microfair, Alexandra Palace, London N22, April 28
Computer, Business Systems & Communication Equipment Exhibition, Micro City, Bristol Exhibition Centre, Arny 15-17
DEC User Show, Conrad International Hotel, London W6, May 15-17
May 19
Apple '84, Futurum Centre, Slough, May 24-26

Overseas

Computerized Office Equipment Exhibition, Rosemont USA, May 1-3
Compe Europe, Centre International Rogier, Brussels, May 8-10
Data Processing, Computer & Automatic Systems Fair, Lyon, France, May 9-12

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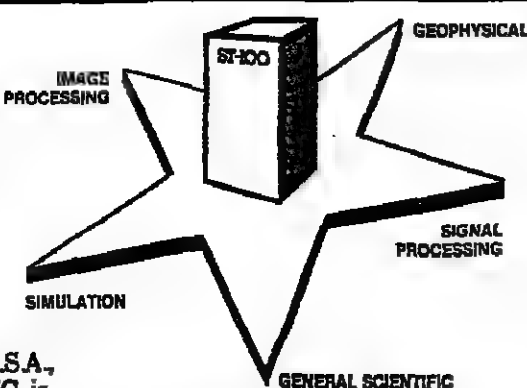
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The French banking revolution takes off

The French were slow to take up some business uses of computers and have never really warmed to home terminals. But they lead Europe in applying computer technology to the bank and retailing sectors. Several French banks now offer sophisticated home banking services using computer links with their branches. Some are even opening unstaffed automatic banks and many are involved in shopping without cash. The French Post Office (PTT) is also a leader in the field with a network of Minitel computers. It is intended that the Miniteles will eventually replace every telephone directory in the country, with the first three million of them expected in service by the end of 1985.

The PTT is letting space on the system to banks, mail-order firms and any other organization that wants to offer services in homes or offices. The banks, themselves, are pinning their hopes on "smart-cards" computerized credit cards which, their advocates believe, have a vast market potential among the 97 per cent of French adults with bank accounts.

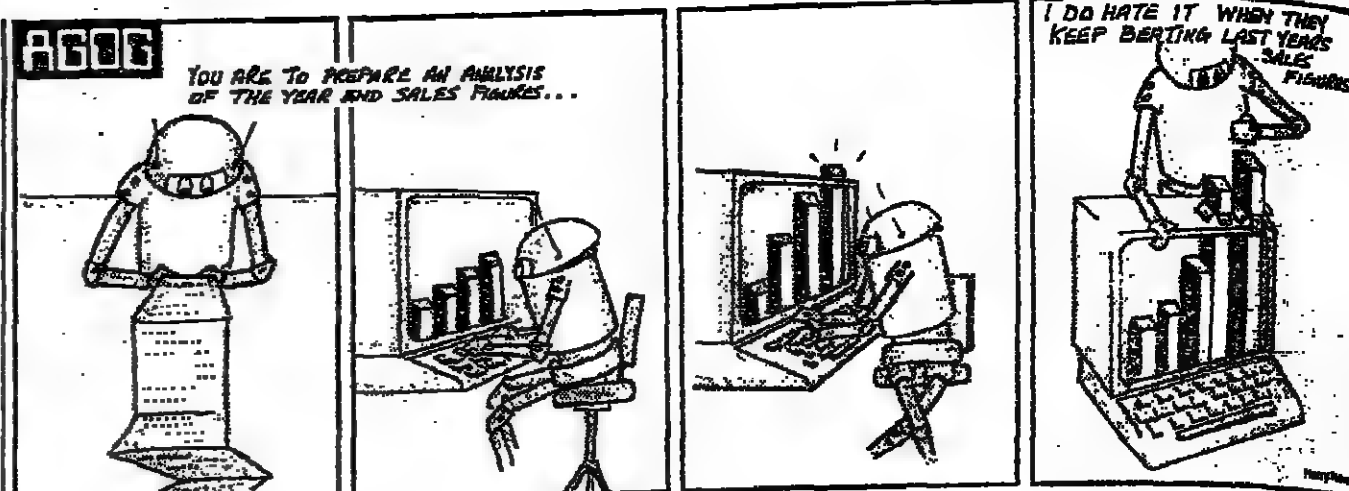
Though they look just like ordinary credit cards, the smart-cards can be used in powerful microchips embedded in them can record their owners' bank details, enabling them to pay for goods without cash, cheques or other cards. The shopkeeper is credited directly for a sale by feeding the card into a special computer terminal linked to the banks. The "smart-card" has been undergoing trials in three cities - Caen, Lyon and Blois.

Besides paying the bills, the cards can be used in public telephone booths, to open security doors and do many other jobs. In Paris, University Number Seven has given each first-year student a "smart-card" on which is entered a full record of the student's university career.

Worms offer the most sophisticated service, costing from 1,000 francs (about £85) a month upwards. Clients can consult two weeks' accounts on Miniteles or their own computers at any time, find a cheque by its number or get detailed information on exchange rates or gold and silver prices. CCR's Minitel service, launched last December, is free and gives basic account information and the chance of doing some transactions and calling up simpler financial data.

In 1979 BPL was the first French bank to open an automatic branch with no employees.

Other voices, however, raise fears about the increasingly remote operation of French banks because of the new technology. They invoke concern over not only the likely fall in bank employment but also over security of access to a customer's account and possible loss of confidentiality.



The other big question about the miners

Rex Malik continues his series on the social consequences of computing with a look at the problems of global operations

What computerised processes do is to change economic equations. If you take out people and substitute machines, you do a large number of things, including changing the accounting relationship between capital and running costs.

The implications of this are considerable. What you do by making industry capital-intensive and highly dependent on digital electronic systems and processes is to change the timing when major costs are incurred.

The substitution of programmable electronics for people might lead you to think it would give the ability to handle greater complexity, improve speed, reliability and increase the flexibility of production, leading to product flexibility.

But the Capital, plant, process know-how and supporting skills are such that it is more and more difficult for new nations to join in. The time to put a programme together and get the marketing organized seems to be stretching out.

This in turn probably means that a nation expecting to be globally successful in product X and its successors, say early in the next century, had better start getting itself organized now - indeed in some areas it might already be too late.

Given this, it is possible then that the world of the near future is one in which countries build on perceived national traits. The Americans might well live on and off the export of advanced electronics, agricultural products and Dallas; the French on train sets, wine and haute couture; the Japanese on mass market electronics and cars and the British on financial dealings. The Jewel in the Crown and its successors, and software.

In a global market with global operations, foreigners' beliefs about other national characteristics were if no all important, certainly enough to seriously impact investment decisions.

But will people and politicians accept these restrictions on their independence as global operations in manufacturing became more and more the norm?

What looked like specialisation writ large might make economic sense, but it was going to be difficult for proud countries accustomed by history to doing it all, or nearly all, themselves.

If mass production in the traditional employment industries is in decline almost everywhere where are the rising industries, the job providers of the future, to be found?

War on pirates

Continued from previous page

US technology wherever it is. Two years ago ICL was fined \$15,000 (about £10,000) on the basis of the same act. ICL had shipped to South Africa, as part of a British built and properly UK export-licensed computer, a disk unit from the US.

Two weeks ago the subsidiary of Sweden's largest telecommunications company, was forced to pay a \$1m fine to the US Department of Commerce for exporting an air traffic control system with about 9 per cent US componentry to Russia.

At a private meeting with UK computer executives recently, the US Ambassador, while apparently seeking a solution to the problem, pointed out that as US law stands, ICL should have a US export licence to move its ICL computer because most of its equipment contains some US components, from the factory in Manchester to a customer anywhere in the UK.

One of the regulations, based on the 1974 definition of a computer, means that anyone leaving Britain with an American microprocessor driven watch or a computer toy such as an arcade game for which no export licence has been issued is technically breaking the law.

In a recent television conference with European journalists, Richard Perle, said that the US was now using Apple II, with standard software, to target nuclear weapons.

The implication, in the remainder of Perle's speech was that the Apple II should be licensed for movement to the Allies, and embargoed to Eastern Europe.

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INTERVIEWS IN MAY - SO CALL TODAY

A new chance for the data man

By Geoffrey Ellis

Those golden days for people working in data processing, may soon be gone forever. But, says an industry expert, if a DP manager bends with the winds that are sweeping through company corridors, whole new areas of responsibility could be there for the taking.

These views are shared by many others including Ron Yearsley, a director of B. I. S. Applied Systems, who has often put forward his vision of an industry undergoing change.

He sees a "Tower of Babel" growing up as a result of the proliferation of micros in the office with each of them a coffin nail in the DP manager's professional position.

Previously, large organizations have moved the DP department to separate sites, ostensibly to centralize the computing power, but in reality to isolate what was seen by management as a rabble of slightly eccentric individuals who surrounded themselves with computer gobbledegook.

The time has come, says Mr Yearsley, for all of this to change. Today's DP manager must make positive moves to become integrated in the management structure of the com-

JOB SCENE

pany and shed the image of a "boiler-room man", entrusted by the board to make managerial decisions. Instead, he must make plans to become a company man, even to the extent of attending business management courses. Another danger is that of the "Enema Syndrome".

The chairman has seen his daughter Emma using her home computer. He realizes that it is, in fact, child's play and this jeopardizes the position that has been built up by the DP manager. This is linked with another problem.

There is a welcome move by software and hardware suppliers to open up channels of communication directly at management level, bypassing the old DP route, and with a subtle hint here, and a word there, the DP manager can soon find his credibility level disappearing.

With moves towards the decentralization of data processing and micros appearing on desks throughout the company, Mr Yearsley says that now is the time for the manager to seize the opportunity of wider involvement in company policy.

On screen for a learning holiday

By Peta Levi

Computer camps and courses have mushroomed in the last three years. A few are being held over Easter and many more in the summer holidays. How to choose from the enormous variety, find out what computers are available, how many people there will be to each computer, the staff/pupil ratio and what the course will cover? There has been a great growth in popular day and residential computer camps run along American lines for young people, providing a wide variety of sporting and recreational activities and a few hours computing each day. The day "camps" usually organize a pick-up service and anyone living in London or the South-East is within reasonable reach of a day computer camp.

If the whole family, or individual members, want to learn computing, universities such as Lancaster and Loughborough and the Millfield Village of Education, run an enormous variety of courses for all ages and at different levels. Adults can know that they will be looked after. Millfield, one of the first to start computer courses (1978) will open this year a computer college offering half-day courses (£36), and all-day courses (£78) for enthusiasts with residential fees extra. It runs from July 23 to Aug 17.

One of the best camps for any age is Computer Park '84 at Gironcourt Hall, Northamptonshire, run by two computer buffs, Alan Carter and Peter Tilsley. Anyone over the age of 10 is welcome. This is one of the few courses where you can, if you wish, spend the entire week (9 am to 9 pm) on a computer of your choice; there are also recreational facilities. Two years ago they had to lock the computer rooms for lunch and at 9 pm, otherwise the children would skip lunch and stay at the computers until midnight.

The 17 different micros available include 40 BBC micros linked on an Econet local area network (probably the biggest Econet system outside Acorn's office) and second processors. Apart from Basic, computer languages taught are Logo, Pascal, Fortran, Lisp, Prolog and machine codes 6502, Z80 and 6809. Beginners join an intensive two-day crash course which enables them to participate in the wide range of workshops. These include one on expert systems - useful for applications as diverse as medical diagnosis and horse racing.

Among a whole range of peripherals are a BBC buggy, telecommunications in the form of radio links, and control



Smiles all round from boys at a Dolphin computer camp. This year 10,000 children are expected to join

technology, turtles, controlling a lathe, mixing liquids and a selection of robot arms. It runs from July 28 to Aug 18 with seven nights costing £189.

Five diverse courses, some for all ages, are organized on Southampton University campus by Dr & Mrs Lionel Wardle. Families can enjoy campus recreational facilities while those who want to join a computing course including several for beginners, for GP's (July 16), for business and professional users (August 20) and a structured course for school parties (who are offered reduced rates). July 16 and August 27. Last year a new course for the physically handicapped had 400 applicants for 25 places. This year, with help from Kent Education Department and the headmaster and staff of Valence School at Westerham, Kent, they can provide 180 places.

Many handicapped people are not disabled when it comes to handling a computer and the comparatively cheap micros open up many job possibilities. There are two million disabled in Britain; to spread knowledge of how computers can help them, the Wardles are organizing courses for teachers of the physically handicapped, care assistants and therapists. (Weeks starting July 23 and August 6; for handicapped people's courses, computing

courses and teachers computing courses the cost is £132.25; for business and professional courses £316.25).

For young people day camps are popular, as they offer a variety of computing and micro-electronic courses combined with many recreational facilities. Three organizations, with a total of 14 camp locations within reach of London or the South-East, offer pick-up transport for an additional charge of between £12.50 and £15 a week.

Camp Aldenham, a day camp for five to 13 year-old boys and girls at Aldenham School, Epsom, offers the nine to 13 year-olds 1½ hours a day of either a computer or a micro-electronics course under the supervision of Paul Buzzard. Aldenham School's head of micro-electronics, staff ratio is one to five and each child has access to a BBC Acorn Model B micro. It runs from July 23 to Aug 20 with prices from £99.

Dolphin Camps started in 1982 with financial assistance from the DoI's education unit and Information Technology year. Last year 3,400 children attended and this year they expect 8,000 to 10,000. They run residential and day camps with 2½ hours per day computing for eight to 16 year-olds. Each child has the use of a 48K Sinclair Spectrum or BBC micro (and possibly a Sinclair

QL). Staff ratio is one to five. After a week most beginners can do simple programming in Basic or Logo while more advanced children can learn Prolog. Forth, Pascal, advanced Basic and machine code. All can experiment with graphics, computer aided design, networks and word processing or build a robot.

Day computer camps at Brighton, Ascot, Sevenoaks, Roehampton, Barnet, Beaconsfield and (in the summer only) Woodford Green, weeks start from April 24, July 23 until August 31 at £91.43; half-term (residential only) Gaves-ton Hall, Horsham Sussex from May 27 - 5 days at £97.69, 2 days at £42.49. Also for 11-16 year-olds there is a residential computer camp near Nantes, France 3 weeks at £395, 2 weeks at £295, one week at £190 with inclusive transport to and from London.

Camp Beaumont, started in 1981 by businessman Stewart Woley, is based on the American model with sporting and recreational activities as well as various computing courses. Most children learn beginners Basic or Logo or do intermediate Basic.

The usual 2½-hour computer session each day is available for 8-16 year-olds, with one child to a Commodore 64 or BBC micro and a staff ratio of 1 to 5. Day

camps are at Windsor Godalming, Mill Hill, Brentwood, Westerham, Ashurstwood, Knutsford, Henley in Arden and Edinburgh. Weeks start from July 23 to August 25 at £80.50.

Residential camps in East Sussex, Wiltshire, Cheshire, Edinburgh, London and the Lake District (£181.70 or £158.70 under canvas).

This year the Management Centre, London, are holding three one-week courses for 18-25 year-olds in Dublin, Edinburgh and London. The aim is to give young people a computer grounding, whether for business, industry or the professions. Courses take place in July/Aug from 9 am to 5 pm Mon to Fri, cost £224.25. However, companies sending young employees on the course can reclaim £100 per person from the Manpower Services Commission.

Interest is increasing in the Logo language, conceived in the 1960s and largely developed by MIT and the Department of Artificial Intelligence, at the University of Edinburgh. The latter are again organizing courses for teachers, one for beginners, weeks starting July 23 and Aug 6, and an advanced course for people with experience. (Residential cost £135, non-residential £80). All prices quoted are inclusive of VAT.

Lancaster University, Conference Office, University of Lancaster, LA1 4YW (0524 65201 ext. 4521)

Loughborough University, Centre for Extension Studies, Loughborough University LE11 3TU (0509 263171)

Millfield Village of Education, Street, Somerset BA16 0YD (0458 42391)

Computer Park '84 25 Bridge Street, Rothwell, Kettering, Northants NN14 2JW (0536 712637)

Learning at Leisure, Dr and Mrs Lionel Wardle, 37 University Road, Southampton SO2 1TL (0703 558621)

Camp Aldenham, Aldenham School, Epsom, Herts. WD6 3AJ (779 7553 6131)

Dolphin Activities Ltd, 68 Churchway, London, NW1 1LT (01-387 5602)

Camp Beaumont, Beaumont House, 73 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 2SZ (01-870 9866)

The Management Centre, 2 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2PN (01-242 9210)

The Department of Artificial Intelligence, University of Edinburgh, K. R. Johnson, Forrest Hill, The University, Edinburgh, EH1 2QL (031 667 1011 Ex. 2497 or 2480)

A way to improve your program

By Rory Johnston

Everyone involved with computers knows how horrendously expensive software development is. As hardware costs fall, programmers' salaries rise and the systems they produce get more complex. It is estimated that the UK now spends £1 billion a year on writing program codes. But even after arduous coding, testing and debugging, costs do not end there: maintenance of programs (a euphemism for fixing mistakes that crop up and making necessary alterations) is a continuing heavy burden and can amount to half the cost of a system.

Experts have long been convinced that the bulk of the serious faults in programs are caused not by errors in coding but by failures to get the specifications right at the beginning. Now, a formal method for making sure that a specification actually does describe what the customer wants is being brought out of the laboratory, in a campaign to get the computer industry to adopt it on a large scale.

The technique is called VDM, for Vienna Development Method, and has grown out of work started at IBM's laboratories in Vienna over ten years ago. STC in the UK has been using VDM in-house for some time, and now the company's software house, STC IDEC, is launching a series of training courses and a consultancy programme to get the technique much more widely known in the industry.

VDM language

Peter Cropper, STC IDEC's managing director, describes VDM as a way of concentrating effort on "avoiding putting errors in rather than on taking them out." It could go a long way, he says, to saving the estimated £100m a year which is wasted in Britain each year through failure to produce good-quality software first time.

Cropper has influential backing in the form of David Talbot, director of software engineering activities at the government's Alvey Programme. Warmly greeting STC IDEC's initiative, Talbot says: "The analysis of requirements and the drawing up of specifications is the area where most projects go wrong, long before any code is written."



David Talbot: preventing mistakes



Professor Cliff Jones: a more structured way

VDM itself consists of a language, rather like a computer language, into which customer's requirements are translated. It owes much to the predicate calculus used in formal logic. One of the pioneers of VDM in the UK is Professor Cliff Jones of Manchester University, and he explains that while a non-technical customer for software would not be expected to understand the language himself, it provides his technical staff with a more structured and rigorous way of interacting with him.

STC IDEC are quick to point out that VDM entails overheads and is most suited to the design of large, integrated systems that will be installed in many sites: one-off, fairly simple programs such as payroll probably would not benefit. At the moment the use of VDM is entirely manual but the company is developing program tools to help in its use: these will run on a large minicomputer of STC IDEC's own bureau machine.

Does VDM spell the end of programming as we know it? Definitely not, says Professor Jones. It is a way of specifying what you want to do, not how you are going to do it, he points out: the how is still up to the program designers. Also, there are still plenty of things it cannot do at all - for instance handling parallelism. The researchers have a lot of work ahead of them yet.

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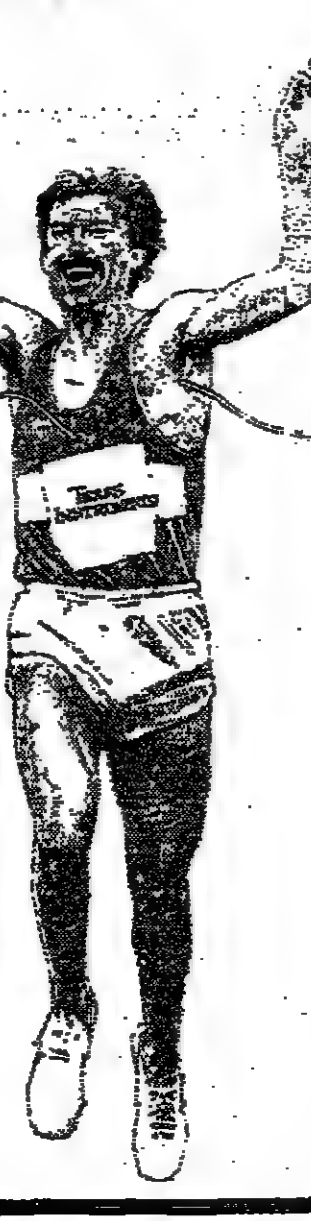
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The MI5 loner who decided the Russians were right

By Stewart Tiedler
Peter Hennessy
and Nicholas Timmins

One of the architects of the modern Security Service once said the ideal qualities for an MI5 officer included intellect and an unremarkable private life. Nothing should draw attention. "We prefer," he explained, "that our men lead private lives."

On that basis Michael Bettaney was an excellent candidate when he was approached at Oxford in 1972. Here was a strong, practising Roman Catholic with a very conservative outlook on life. Here was a man who excited little interest in a crowd or on a suburban street.

Yet 10 years later Bettaney, a rising star at the service's Curzon Street headquarters, began plotting to become a Soviet agent, eventually drawing up 50 to 60 documents which he planned to pass, including details of British agents and sources in the East.

He had undergone a sea-change undetected by friends, colleagues and an internal security system which had not vetted him since he first started work, although there were signs that Bettaney was no longer the man MI5 recruited. Sometimes a heavy drinker, he had been convicted at a London court for being drunk and disorderly. It did not worry MI5.

A year before he began spying he became a member of his local Labour Party. MI5 does not prevent officers supporting any mainstream party, but activism is taboo. Bettaney allowed himself to become a member of the party's general committee.

In the same period Bettaney's religious enthusiasm changed. He began missing Sunday Mass at his local church.

Within a few months, the metamorphosis was complete. Bettaney had moved further left than a middle-class suburban Labour party. What emerged was a man who had taken to Marxism with the same fervour with which he held Christianity. Although on the surface Bettaney has always appeared utterly stable the change was in fact a major transition with burning if not naive vigour.

He was a working-class conservative whose patriotism led him into the Security Service. He converted to Catholicism and thought of becoming not just a layman but a priest. He converted to Communism and felt he must spy.

Even now Bettaney has not fully explained what triggered the final development and the clues may lie in that quiet, even introverted, life which began 34 years ago in the Midlands.

Bettaney was born the son of



Michael Bettaney, aged 18 months, in the arms of his aunt, as schoolboy (right in picture) in Stoke, and (right) with fellow students at Oxford.

a toy factory press operator in the Potteries. He was an only child and for part of his childhood lived with his parents and grandmother in the Fenton area of Stoke. Both parents went to work; his mother was involved with ceramics and his father was now a cleaner, and Bettaney was cared for by his grandmother, to whom he was devoted.

He failed the 11-plus, but the examination was a poor test of his intellect. Bettaney went to Longton High School and took seven O levels and three A levels, in English, Music and French, with B passes.

Bettaney affected a personal style of tweeds and brogues which earned him taunts and the nickname of "the professor". Mr Keith Lamb knew him as a neighbourhood friend and said he was "quite an ordinary lad, but he was one on his own and he did not run with the pack."

He would go to local dances with Mr Lamb and other teenagers but needed a couple of drinks before he could summon the courage to ask a girl for a dance.

At 16 Bettaney embraced the Roman Catholic Church. His grandmother had been Catholic. He went to St Gregory's Church in Longton, Stoke, and was taught by Father Desmond Donnelly. "He just came to me out of the blue, knocked at the door and said he wanted to take

instruction. "He was a very strong and practising Catholic."

Certainly nothing he found at Oxford when he went up in 1969 swayed his beliefs: the possibility of the priesthood vied with thoughts of an academic life.

Bettaney went up to Pembroke College to read English and after his first year examinations the college awarded him a scholarship. In 1972 he took a good second in finals. He got a research grant from the Department of Education.

Strong dislike for the upper classes

At Oxford, as in Stoke, Bettaney seemed slightly out of place among his contemporaries. Dr John Fleeman, his tutor, noted: "The late 1960s were a period of crazy activities and he did not associate himself with that which was quite a relief. If his politics were anything they were Tory."

Mr Richard Haycraft read English with him, and thought, like his childhood friend, that he was a bit of an outsider, slightly "out of place in a university where long hair and kaffians were more fashionable than his short back and sides, jacket and tie."

Other students found he could be more amusing, with a dry wit and an ability to make fun of himself.

He joined the university's Officer Training Corps.

Bettaney also developed a strong interest in the politics of Germany in the 1930s and the rise of the Nazis, reading widely in the field.

But parallel with this conservatism Bettaney also expressed a strong dislike for the upper classes he seemed to ape. At least one Oxford friend said Bettaney disliked the public school undergraduates.

Neither this ambiguity nor the interest in the right wing worried MI5 when Bettaney was approached in his last year. He was accepted after taking civil service examinations, but the service agreed to let him pursue his research project.

He began research for a B.Litt based on Dr Johnson's use of Shakespearean quotations for his dictionary. Within a few weeks he began to assert himself, becoming elected president of the Middle Common Room in 1973, and sometimes getting drunk and outspoken.

The research eventually foundered when another researcher was discovered in the United States who was further advanced.

From the summer of 1974 to the summer of 1975 Bettaney spent a year in Germany, teaching part-time at two schools near Bremen. He lived with a priest and his two sisters near Jaderberg.

The man, who is now dead,

was a refugee from East Germany, and he seems to have had a strong influence.

When Bettaney returned from Germany in 1975 he started his career with the Security Service. He told his new friends in Germany, Stoke and Oxford, that he was working for the Government, but little more.

Took camera into work unchallenged

Bettaney spent up to two years working on a job off in Northern Ireland, following a career pattern which has become common in the Security Service. Anyone hoping to progress in MI5 is expected to work for some period in Ulster.

In late 1977 his father died and his mother's death followed early in 1978. His closest relative was now an aunt in Stoke and some sources trace the origins of his espionage to the effect of his parents' deaths. There is no doubt he was deeply attached to them.

He may also have been affected by the death of the West German priest, which also occurred in 1978.

He started work full-time in London, becoming increasingly prosperous. He was based at Curzon Street, living for a time in rented flats, before buying his

own little home in Coudsdon for £22,000 in 1979.

His neighbours saw and heard little of him.

At Curzon Street he was well-regarded and described as something of a "high-flyer".

In the autumn of 1982 Bettaney, now holding a rank equivalent to principal officer in the ordinary civil service, was moved to the counter-espionage section of MI5's K branch, concerned with countering Soviet intelligence efforts in Britain.

Across Bettaney's desk passed information and assessments of Soviet activity in Britain, and operations by MI5 and Special Branch. He was one of a handful of MI5 officers, perhaps two or three at most, with such detailed day-to-day work.

No one had examined his credentials before he took up the task. But Bettaney says he had shifted to the left. He had grown increasingly unhappy with the policies of the Thatcher Government in Britain and President Reagan's Washington.

At the beginning of 1982 Bettaney joined the Coudsdon Labour Party, trying to find his place in the political firmament.

Small ward organizations often have difficulty making up their representation at the local general committee meetings. Although Bettaney was not noted as a keen party worker he

was drafted to, the general committee.

Mr Geoffrey Stagg, a senior local party official, said: "He really made so little impact that no one seems to remember him."

Bettaney was later to say he had taken up a new political stance as early as the summer of 1982. He was a Marxist who believed that the Soviet Union's system was preferable to the West.

He decided that he would spy for Russia when he started his new job in December 1982.

The system was simple. He made longhand notes at work, and then took the notes home. There he typed out his notes, and photographed them.

One night he was night duty officer. He had brought in a camera and took photographs of material direct from files. He brought in and took home his camera without challenge.

He was aware of the pattern of observation on Russian diplomats and other Soviet nationals suspected of espionage. On April 3 last year he made his approach to Mr Arkady Gouk at midnight when observation in the dark, tree-lined street where the Russian diplomat lived was impossible.

It was the first of a series of approaches.

Despite his letters there was no response. The Russians did not reply when he gave them the MI5 assessment of the KGB

"order of battle", listing spies in Britain.

Bettaney must have known that the Russians would not take them seriously. In September he realized he was not apparently going to be taken seriously in London. He announced he was planning a two-week holiday in Vienna and began to prepare by reading up all the MI6 reports on Soviet activity in the city.

He was due to leave London on September 18. The following day he was leaving his home when he was arrested.

'Trap baited' with genuine information

At the trial the Crown did not respond to Bettaney's approaches, not that they did not take action on what he gave them. The Times has learned that MI5 officers realized that a number of operations were being "compromised", suggesting there was something wrong, and an internal investigation began.

The "order of battle" Bettaney gave the Russians and who MI5 thought was actively spying in London.

The Russians may have started taking extra security measures, thinking that an attempt to entrap or dupe them had been baited with genuine information.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

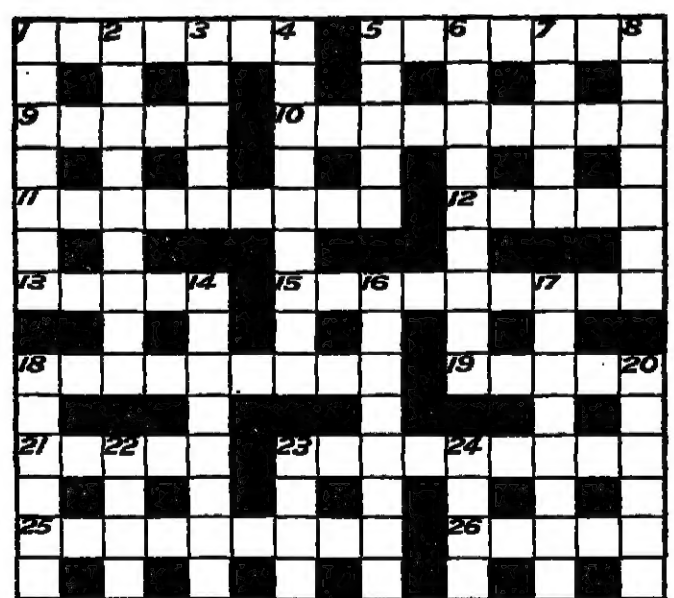
Today's events

Royal engagements
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visits Shaftesbury House and Aethusa Venture Centre at Lower Upnor, Kent, 12 and Hospital of Sir John Hawkins, Chatham, 3.30.
Princess Anne, as president of the British Olympic Association, attends a fund-raising dinner at Trinity College, Cambridge, 7.20.

Music

Concert by Band of Welsh Guards, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.
Organ recital by Malcolm Archer, Colston Hall, Bristol, 7.30.
Organ recital by Ronald Ford, St Ann's Church, Manchester, 12.45.
Concert by choir, Leeds parish church, 7.30.
Guitar recital by Panteleimon Michaeloudis, St Vedast, Foster Lane, 1.10.
Recital by Stephen Pierce (clarinet), 7.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,407



ACROSS

- 1 Artist's connection with a boat (7).
- 2 French boy's mark below the line (7).
- 3 Unqualified to give voice (5).
- 4 Marx airborne elephant heading east will cause astonishment (9).
- 5 With a pointed stick, firmly embed the starched plant (9).
- 6 Still first in the race (5).
- 7 Souvenir, including a bit left over (9).
- 8 Bobby's Americanized Irishman, normal sort (9).
- 9 Burgundy protected from rain with this? (5).
- 10 Four rods used to restrain a prisoner (5).
- 11 One sees no point in this connection being closed (6-3).
- 12 How, with a needle, to cause lion acute distress (9).
- 13 King George the First received by Miller (5).
- 14 Italian subject of a peaceful 2 (7).
- 15 It cases the strain for some cadet entering the forces (7).

- 15 No sign of the beggar dying, said Calphurnia (5).
- 16 In divine belief exploit a reason for looting (9).
- 17 With many a subtle emanation she inspired Petrarch (5).
- 18 Accountant said in France to separate forms of gold (7).
- 19 Moonshine's prickly burden on a midsummer night (5-4).
- 20 Walking over this I feel disturbed in mind (9).
- 21 Cede point that's misrepresented by fraud (9).
- 22 So mischievous, Goodfellow, R (7).
- 23 Early bird suffered from prohibition repeatedly (7).
- 24 A place for pigeons in the crow's nest? (5).
- 25 Effect of birth or spruce (5).
- 26 Fast, if not loose, having over-indulged (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,406

DOWN

- 1 French writer about silver bird's feathers (7).
- 2 That of Ptolemy was a huggermugger affair (9).
- 3 The endless line is east (5).
- 4 Gunmen stupid to hold up old vessel that provides home entertainment (9).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword with an additional set of concise clues will appear in the Saturday section this Saturday.

net) and William Blezard (Piano), St

Concert by BBC Singers, Barbican Hall, 1.15.
Concert by London Sinfonietta, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, 7.45.
Concert by Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble, Common Room, Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, 8.30.
Herz Trust, Canadian chamber ensemble, Purcell Room, 8.0.

Talks

Birds and their young, by Joyce Pope, Natural History Museum, 3.15.
Concert by Linda Parry, Victoria and Albert Museum, 1.15.
Billingsgate: recording the life of the market, by Colin Manton, 12, Fleet Street, 7.30.
The City Parishes, by Stephen Bird, Banqueting Rooms, Guildhall, Bath, 1.10.

New exhibitions

Recent watercolours by Cameron F. Coates, Derek G. M. Mowatt and Keith A. Thomson, Torrence Gallery, Edinburgh, Mon to Fri, 11 to 6, Sat, 10.30 to 1, closed Sun (until May 5).
Vanishing Tribal Arts of Central Asia, Cleveland Gallery, Middleborough, Tues to Sat, 12 to 7, closed Sun and Mon (until May 12).
Picturing the Great and Famous, 50 years of photography by Karsh, National Portrait Gallery, Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat, 10 to 5, Sun, 2 to 5 (until May 27).
For children
Hands On: Special sessions where message will read "Please Touch", rather than "Don't Touch". Museum of Mankind, 6 Burlington Gardens, Mon to Sat, 10 to 5, Sun, 2.30 to 6 (ends April 27). Free admission (closed April 20 to 23).
Holiday activity: The Making of Lord Vlova, how Humphrey Ocean's painting "Lord Vlova and His Estate" was put together, National Portrait Gallery, 11.

General

Spring Flower show, New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, 11.30 to 7. Life in London During the Second World War, Geoffrey Museum, Hackney, 10 to 12.30, 2 to 4.

Anniversaries

Birth: Edward Gibbon, London, 1737. Constantine Cavafy, poet, Alexandria, Egypt, 1863. Sir Leonard Woolley, archaeologist, discoverer of Ur, London, 1880. Thornton Wilder, novelist and dramatist, Madison, Wisconsin, 1897. Benjamin Franklin, printer, author, scientist and diplomat, died at Philadelphia, 1790.

'Marathon Line'

British Telecom has set up a "Marathon Line" to help runners preparing for the London Marathon on May 13. Available on 10-246 8081, it will provide recorded advice and information on training and preparation, diet, special offers for marathon runners, and associated events.

The papers

With the warning that "if you keep plugging away at a dead idea, eventually it doesn't seem so loopy", the Daily Mirror lambasts the idea for spending cuts of Professor Mifflord, of Liverpool University, who has proposed selling all nationalized industries, getting rid of the National Health Service and state schools to private buyers. "Why stop there, Professor? There are plenty of other wacky ideas that could bring in a bit of cash for the Government," the paper says.

The Daily Star draws two lessons from the conviction of Michael Bettaney: "Eternal vigilance is the price. Not only of freedom but of our national safety... However great or small the repercussions, the principle of demanding absolute loyalty in public life is one we abandon at our peril."

More trains

More than 100 extra Inter-City trains will run on British Rail's Western Region from tomorrow to next Wednesday.

Top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending April 16:
1 The Price is Right (BBC 1) 16.05
2 Coronation Street (BBC 1) 15.55
3 Saturday Night Takeaway (BBC 1) 14.45
4 The Big Game (BBC 1) 14.15
5 News at 5.45 (BBC 1) 13.55
6 News at 5.45 (BBC 1) 13.55
7 This is Your Life (BBC 1) 13.25
8 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
9 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
10 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25

ITV

1 The Price is Right (BBC 1) 16.05
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9 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
10 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25

BBC 2

1 The Price is Right (BBC 1) 16.05
2 Coronation Street (BBC 1) 15.55
3 Saturday Night Takeaway (BBC 1) 14.45
4 The Big Game (BBC 1) 14.15
5 News at 5.45 (BBC 1) 13.55
6 News at 5.45 (BBC 1) 13.55
7 This is Your Life (BBC 1) 13.25
8 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
9 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
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8 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
9 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
10 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25

BBC 4

1 The Price is Right (BBC 1) 16.05
2 Coronation Street (BBC 1) 15.55
3 Saturday Night Takeaway (BBC 1) 14.45
4 The Big Game (BBC 1) 14.15
5 News at 5.45 (BBC 1) 13.55
6 News at 5.45 (BBC 1) 13.55
7 This is Your Life (BBC 1) 13.25
8 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
9 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
10 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25

BBC 5

1 The Price is Right (BBC 1) 16.05
2 Coronation Street (BBC 1) 15.55
3 Saturday Night Takeaway (BBC 1) 14.45
4 The Big Game (BBC 1) 14.15
5 News at 5.45 (BBC 1) 13.55
6 News at 5.45 (BBC 1) 13.55
7 This is Your Life (BBC 1) 13.25
8 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
9 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
10 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25

BBC 6

1 The Price is Right (BBC 1) 16.05
2 Coronation Street (BBC 1) 15.55
3 Saturday Night Takeaway (BBC 1) 14.45
4 The Big Game (BBC 1) 14.15
5 News at 5.45 (BBC 1) 13.55
6 News at 5.45 (BBC 1) 13.55
7 This is Your Life (BBC 1) 13.25
8 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
9 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25
10 The Big Game (BBC 1) 13.25

Cheap Easter calls

Cheap-rate telephone calls will be available over the Easter holiday. In England and Wales they will apply from 6pm on Thursday for inland calls (8pm for direct-dialled international calls) until 6am on Tuesday. Scotland's cheap rate will end at 8am on Easter Monday. In Northern Ireland the cheap rate will not start until 6pm (8pm for international calls) on Good Friday, but will be extended until 6am on Wednesday. The international cheap rate will not apply to such countries as Australia, New Zealand, Hongkong and Singapore.

Roads

Scotland: A9, Causewayhead Road, Stirling, resurfacing, single-lane traffic with lights. A97, between A97 junction and Cullaloe Reservoir, Fife, only one lane; temporary lights.
North: A618 (West Yorkshire), roadworks on Leeds southern ring road: delays. A19 (Tyne and Wear), roadworks causing lane restrictions between A19 junction and Cullaloe Reservoir, Fife, only one lane; temporary lights.
A690 Durham Road, Sunderland, A1 (Tyne and Wear), carriageway closures over Lindisfarne interchange bridge, near Jarrow, where repairs: temporary lights.
Wales and West: A48, Crickhowell, Powys: roadworks on Aberystwyth to Brecon Road. A483, between Llandellio and M4 junction, temporary one-way. A4 Bath Road, Marlborough, resurfacing: temporary signals.
London and South-east: A46, Western Avenue, between Grand Union canal and Oldfield Lane, near London, resurfacing: temporary signals. A103, Hornsey Rise, British Telecom work, northbound diversions. A113, Chingwell Road, south of Green Lane, gas main repairs: temporary lights.
Midlands: A143, Scole, Northolt: temporary signals. A34, Tidmington, south of Shipston: roadworks. A34, south of Newbold-on-Stour: temporary signals. Information from AA.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.62	1.54
Canada \$	27.65	26.05
Belgium Fr	81.50	77.50
Denmark Kr	1.38	1.81
Finland Mk	14.30	13.60
France F	11.58	11.00
Germany DM	3.37	3.69
Greece Dr	153.00	143.00
Hongkong \$	11.48	10.88
Ireland	1.27	1.21
Italy Lira	2395.00	2275.00
Japan Yen	355.00	319.00
Netherlands Gld	4.40	4.18
Norway Kr	11.20	10.69
Portugal Esc	195.00	185.00
Spain Ptas	1.98	1.84
Sweden Kr	216.00	205.00
Switzerland Fr	11.58	11.00
USA \$	3.23	3.06
Yugoslavia Dnr	1.46	1.41
	183.00	173.00

Notes for small denominations bank notes only, as supplied by the Bank of England. Bank notes are subject to change without notice. Bank notes are subject to change without notice.

Retail Price Index: 345.1.
London: The FT Index closed 20 down at 873.2.

Weather

An area of high pressure will move slowly E over N France as a trough of low pressure moves NE across N Ireland and Scotland.

6am to midnight

London, SE, Central S, E, SW and Central N, East Angles, Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Sunny periods, dry with light SW wind; W backing SW light or moderate; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).
N Wales, NW and NE England, Lake District, NW Scotland: Sunny periods, dry, cloudy later; W backing SW light or moderate; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).
Belfast, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Sunny intervals, scattered showers, becoming cloudy with rain in places later; wind W moderate, becoming SW moderate or fresh; max temp 10 to 11C (50 to 52F).
Argyll, N Ireland: Bright start, rain later, heavy at times, with hill fog; wind S moderate or fresh veering SW fresh or strong locally; max temp 10 to 11C (50 to 52F).
Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, scattered showers, becoming cloudy with rain in places later; wind W moderate, becoming SW fresh or strong, locally gale; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: England and Wales dry with sunny periods. Scotland and Northern Ireland mostly cloudy with rain and drizzle. Temperatures near normal.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind mainly W or NW, light or moderate, sea slight. English Channel: (E) Wind variable, light, sea slight. S of George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S, light increasing fresh, locally strong, sea slight, becoming moderate.

Sun rises: 6.11 am. Sun sets: 8.11 pm.
Moon rises: 6.58 am. Moon sets: 10.33 pm.
Last Quarter: April 23.

Lighting-up time

London: 8.31 pm to 8.28 am (Bristol: 8.40 pm to 8.28 am).
Edinburgh: 8.44 pm to 8.30 am.
Manchester: 8.44 pm to 8.30 am.
Penzance: 8.50 pm to 8.30 am.

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, about: F, in sun.
Belfast: 15.1 C / 59.2 F
Birmingham: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
Bristol: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
Cardiff: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
Cork: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
Dublin: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
Edinburgh: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
Exeter: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
Glasgow: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
Liverpool: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
London: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
Manchester: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
Newcastle: 15.4 C / 59.7 F
Nottingham: 15.